

Hafa Adai!

Ex-assistant solicitor is NMI's new chief prosecutor **PAGE 8**

Luta sale is stayed. **PAGE 9**

Saipan Tribune

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75¢

December arrivals up 42 pct.

Visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands catapulted by 42 percent in December 2016 compared to December 2015.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 58,412 visitors in December 2016, compared to 41,128 visitors received in December 2015.

This was the third highest recorded December arrivals in NMI history, with the highest recorded in December 1997 with 63,318 arrivals.

Also, visitor arrivals surpassed 50,000 for the first time since January 2005.

In addition, visitor arrivals

grew 11 percent overall in the year 2016, from 478,592 visitors in 2015, to 530,525 visitors in 2016.

» **2016 marks 11 percent growth in arrivals**

However, the MVA raised concerns that despite the growth in arrivals, the hotel occupancy tax collected is not keeping pace with arrivals.

"Of course, it's great news that arrivals continue to increase. However, we see that those arrivals are not actually

See **DECEMBER** on **Page 4**

'Expand anti-betel nut law to homes'

By **JON PEREZ**
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A law against the sale of betel nut to minors that came into being in the last legislature is being eyed for possible amendment, this time to cover those that are grown by private landowners.



Guerrero

under 18 years old. Its goal is to curb the rampant sale and easy access of betel nut to minors in stores,

Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan), however, is concerned about growers and private landowners who have betel nut trees in their homes. "The law

does not cover growers or private landowners."

"There are a lot of home-

See **EXPAND** on **Page 4**



JOB FAIR

Employees of the Department of Public Lands are seen interviewing a student of Saipan Southern High School at the CO-OP Program Job Fair, at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall last Feb. 2, 2017.

DEMALYNN S. PAGARAO

See story on **Page 3**

How Coca-Cola came to be in the Marianas

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

You can say that Islands Bottling Co. predated Imperial Pacific International, Ltd. as an investor from Macau and Hong Kong who took advantage of the economic opportunities in the Marianas.

Steven R. Connor, Mariana Stamp and Coin Club founder, discussed the intricate history of Coca-Cola in the Marianas—Saipan and Guam—during an over hour-long presentation last Jan. 20 at the American Memorial Park visitors center theater.

His research about the

world's No. 1 soda brand's history in the Marianas came under a grant from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

Connor traced the origin of Coca-Cola in the Marianas to Charles Butler of Forth Worth, Texas.

A Navy man, he was sent to

Guam in 1913 to work in the U.S. Navy printing office.

Butler used to work for a bottling plant in Texas. Some years after settling in the U.S. territory, he started to brew his own ginger ale, root beer, and bottled seltzer in his bottling plant.

See **HOW** on **Page 4**

INSIDE



LOCAL

The MVA has begun transitioning to a new name for this destination: The Marianas.

PAGE 13



ASIA

Australia insists a deal that would allow Muslims to be resettled in the U.S. was still on.

PAGE 27



LIFE & STYLE

Beyonce announces she is pregnant with twins.

PAGE 31



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Local

Japan school seeks student exchange program

Three officials of Sendai Ikuei Gakuen High School met with Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang yesterday to discuss

the possibility of a student exchange program.

"It would be nice to have another high school from Japan be

part of the annual program that we have already established with other high schools," said Apatang. "It is always good for people to experience other cultures and I encourage all schools to look into doing a program like this."

Pacific Eagle Enterprises Inc. president Willie Matsu-moto is assisting in bringing the officials to different high schools on island. Since arriving, they have already met with Kagman High School and Marianas High School, and will be going to Grace Christian Academy High School and Mount Carmel High School.

Sendai Ikuei Gakuen director Jun Ogata said their exchange programs have been very successful and they are excited to work with Saipan. They have exchange programs with China as well, and are teaching the Chinese language and culture on campus.

Haruo Mayama, the school's vice principal, said, "Saipan has very friendly people."

Apatang said: "We would love to see the Japanese market come back here and this is a great way to get word into Japan about the beauty of Saipan."

Sendai Ikuei Gakuen High School was founded in 1905 and has about 3,000 students. (Demalynn S. Pagarao)



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Students learn the ropes of job-hunting in job fair

Representatives of both government and private sectors filled the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall yesterday, for a job fair organized by the Public School System.

Brandon S. Nicolas, coordinator of the Cooperative Education Program at Marianas High School, enjoyed his first time putting the event together.

"This kind of program I feel is very near and dear to me. Having worked in a human resources department, I understand the importance of trying to determine a career path," said Nicolas.

Enthusiastic students hoping to land jobs and interviews went from booth to booth to score job interviews.

First lady Diann Torres, who was there for the Lady Diann Torres Foundation, enjoyed the nostalgic feeling she got participating in the program.

"I've always been a teacher. Doing this program helps me keep my momentum. I may be outside of a classroom but I am still mentoring," she said.

Catherine Castro of Marianas High School said the program helped her realize how to react during a job interview.

"The hardest part about an

interview is getting over the nerves, but I've learned that I can just be myself and let my personality shine and that in itself can help me go a long way," Castro said. "We all have different mechanisms on how to stay calm, smile, and let our personalities shine."

Nicolas said the cooperative program "really gives students the kind of hands-on experience that they need to be able to identify what particular field or industry they want to be in. This has a lasting impact on the students in making the connections that they need, so should the time come that they are applying for the job, they know what to expect and how to react."

Joel "Prinz" Salvosa of I Love Saipan said that many of the students were timid and shy. "So I try and teach them that shyness won't get you anywhere." I Love Saipan was able to attract more than 50 interested students.

"I have been supporting this program," said Mikka Valencia, general manager of iHop/Ajisen, "and I believe that the program does a great job of opening doors for students and that is something worth supporting." (Demalynn S. Pagarao)



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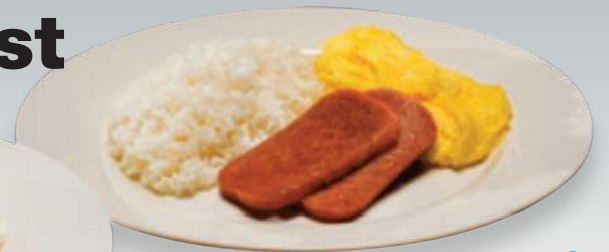
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HOW

From Page 1

In 1929, he got a license to bottle Coca-Cola in Guam and in the late 1930s opened a spanking new bottling plant in Agana. Then World War II came to the islands and he was promptly whisked to Japan as a POW, part of 500 U.S. citizens in Guam forcibly taken to Japan.

Connor said that with Butler out of the way, a Japanese officer wanted his wife, Ignacia, to bottle Coca-Cola for them. When she refused, they used the couple's sprawling ranch home as the Imperial Army's headquarters in Guam.

Liberation came to Guam and one of the casualties was the Butlers' bottling plant in Agana—a victim of bombs dropped from the B-29 Superfortresses.

The Navy's Seabees quickly reconstructed the remnants of the pulverized bottling plant, but Butler didn't immediately get back his bottling plant, as the military wanted him to sell them the plant.

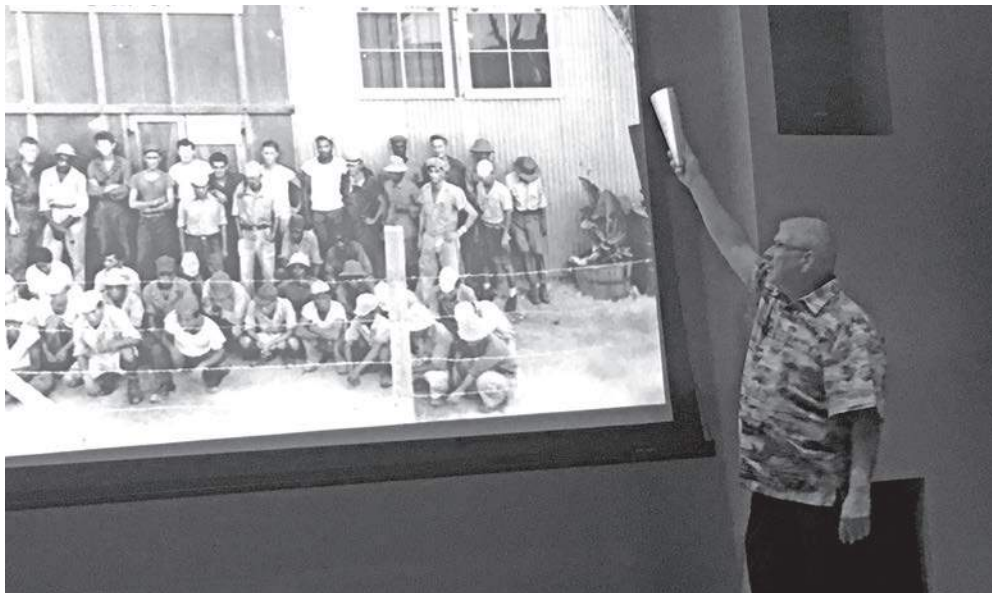
He refused and sued them and eventually had an out-of-court settlement. Butler continued to bottle Coca-Cola until he died of pancreatic cancer in the 1950s.

Connor said Butler's widow and children continued the family business and renamed it to Guam Bottling Co. in 1964. Hong Kong businessman James Lee then bought them out in the 1970s.

Connor said Lee put in charge Carlos Taitano as president of the Coca-Cola bottling plant in Guam and, according to him, "the first thing he did was run this thing to the ground."

Coca-Cola Corp. in fact sued Guam Bottling Co. for unsanitary conditions in 1975. A year later, Mother Nature changed the company's fortunes in a big way.

"In 1976, Typhoon Pamela came and destroyed the plant and that was it. No more bottling of Coca-Cola in Guam has ever occurred since then," said Connor.



MARK RABAGO

Steven Connor points to the original quonset that used to bottle Coca-Cola on Saipan. Posing in front of the structure are American GIs and embarrassed Japanese prisoners of war believed to be conscripted to help set up the structure.

In 1978, Lee filed for bankruptcy after Typhoon Pamela and Connor said the bankruptcy judge assigned the Coca-Cola license to Dutch company Foremost, which now runs Coca-Cola operations in both Guam and the CNMI.

On Saipan, Connor said there were originally two bottling plants set up by the Americans after World War II—one along Quatermaster Road and another in Lower Base where Cargo Express now stands.

In 1966, Taitano of the Guam Bottling fame decided to take over the bottling plant in Lower Base.

The Saipan operation was renamed Bottling Company of Micronesia and it became the hub of Coca-Cola bottling production in Micronesia during the Trust Territory days, said Connor.

From the get-go, Taitano's venture was fraught with challenges. Connor said gecko eggs always found its way in the bottles of Coca-Cola despite the many processes they did to sanitize them.

Water they used to make the soda was also very salty and there was the issue of getting back the soda bottles they were making from scratch here on island.

Locals just won't return bottles to get them refilled. They were also used to erect makeshift electric lines.

Some were also filled with black powder and used as dynamite to blow up fish, aptly named bottle bombs.

Taitano wouldn't have to wait long to divest himself of the Saipan bottling plant, though.

From 1966 to 1975, two critical events were percolating in China—the Cultural Revolution and the open door policy espoused by the administration of President Richard M. Nixon.

Connor said the Cultural Revolution nationalized all bottling companies in China and this prompted bottling companies to move to Macau and Hong Kong, at the time colonies of Portugal and the United Kingdom, respectively.

In 1972, Nixon's open door policy encouraged foreign companies to invest in the U.S. and, heeding the call, Macau-based Island Bottling Co. purchased the Coca-Cola bottling plant on Saipan in the mid-'70s.

One of the objectives of the Humanities Council-funded study was to see how America's economic policies gave opportunities to foreign companies to invest in the CNMI and Connor believes Island Bottling Co., under the leadership of Timothy Lee Po Tin, proved that.

Partnering with the now Joteten Group of Companies and

Saipan Stevedore Co., Island Bottling Co. secured a \$1-million, 40-year lease to build a warehouse along Middle Road, where the Coca-Cola distribution plant now stands.

Connor said Lee's company bought the Coca-Cola operations on Saipan with the intent of making it a distribution center for its canned soft drinks for Micronesia.

"[They] wanted to make Saipan a can distribution center and not continue bottling plant because maintenance of World War II-era equipment was getting expensive."

Island Bottling Co. eventually changed its name to Coca-Cola Beverage Company of Micronesia and gave up bottling altogether in 1995.

Connor said fast-forward to 2017 and Imperial Pacific with its integrated casino resort plans is reaping the same benefits Lee's Coca-Cola Beverage Company envisioned some 40 years ago.

"[This was the] time before Imperial Pacific and Coca-Cola Beverage went on to diversify and opened up Subway, Scoops, and Glimpses [Advertising]," he said.

Connor said Lee's Coca-Cola Beverage Company was also responsible for bringing in the giant 500-lb concrete soda bottles used to advertise Coke, Sprite, and Fanta that once a upon a time littered the

Saipan and Tinian landscape.

He likened the statues to modern latte stones and en-joined the public to help preserve these "cultural" icons. Of the original 20, only seven remain on Saipan and one Tinian.

"Three have been destroyed and within five years they will all be gone—gone pretty soon without any kind of preservation."

Connor tried his best to preserve the giant soda bottles and even volunteered to foot the bill in one restoration project.

"The Zoning Office...consider these signs out of compliance. They said you have to maintain it and make it not look ugly. The cost for these bottle signs to come into com-

pliance is \$35 each."

He was told, through the Zoning Office, that the local Coca-Cola office seems to prefer to take them all down rather than spend the money to restore them.

Connor said the history of Coca-Cola in the Marianas, especially Lee's Island Bottling's venture to Saipan, is linked to the the boom in tourism arrivals from China it currently enjoys.

"I wants to show tourists from China the connection with America's brand of democracy and open economy that gave foreign investors originally from China economic opportunities ever since the mid-1970s," he said.

DECEMBER

From Page 1

translating into more hotel occupancy tax revenue for the government," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "It's rather alarming that the CNMI is receiving more visitors, while the MVA is cutting programs because we are receiving less money than projected."

"We have been working closely with the Department of Finance to ensure enforcement of the hotel occupancy tax by providing them 2.5 percent of our annual budget as mandated by law for their enforcement efforts," said Concepcion. "For fiscal year 2017 this translates to just over \$370,000. We have given them leads on which [bed and breakfasts] are being advertised on select websites, and we are confident our partners at Finance will continue their efforts expeditiously so that the government will not continue to lose funding."

Arrivals from Korea were nearly twice as many as last December, soaring 76 percent to 31,105 visitors, representing over half of all tourist arrivals in the NMI. This is attributed to the increasing numbers of flights, including low-cost carrier Eastar's daily Incheon-Saipan service and Asiana Airlines' Incheon-Saipan daily charter service, both launched in October 2016. In addition, Jeju Air launched regular four times-weekly service from Busan to Saipan on Dec. 15, 2016, and T'way made its inaugural flight to Saipan on Dec. 23, 2016. In 2016, a record 200,000-plus Korean tourists visited the NMI, and the forecast for Korean arrivals remains strong for rest of the year.

Arrivals from China increased 24 percent compared to December 2015 to 17,789 visitors. Dynamic International Airways began operating charter flights in six cities in December, continuing through the end of the spring festival.

These cities, including Wuxi and Hangzhou, are all second-tier cities that have been gaining increased recognition and momentum due to the rapid development taking place in each of the respective cities. Also, many white-collar workers must use their annual leave before it expires, so many office staffers in China travel at the end of every year. As the Chinese economy continues to grow, China's outbound tourism growth is mainly driven by income growth and tourism consumption upgrades.

Arrivals from Japan dipped 2 percent to 6,264 visitors in December, largely due to a fewer number of charter flights. In 2016, Asiana Airlines had only one charter flight from Osaka, whereas in 2015 Asiana had seven charter flights from Tokyo and one from Osaka. Looking ahead, the MVA is now working on increasing the frequency of charter service in summer 2017 from Osaka and Nagoya.

The NMI also received three ship arrivals in December with 1,314 visitors aboard.

Economic highlights

The third-quarter economic growth rate in Korea rose 1.3 percent from the previous quarter, the highest level in five years and three months, thanks to a large gain in construction and consumption. The average exchange rate in December was 1,174.67 won to a dollar, slightly up from the November rate of 1,170.41 won.

The national economy of China remained strong throughout the end of November. In December, the outbound tourism price index was 101.6, a year-on-year increase of 4.9 percent.

Japan's economy strengthened further toward the end of 2016. The December Nikkei PMI surveys showed the strongest growth rate since August 2015. Monthly rate average for U.S. dollar to Japanese yen exchange in December 2016 was 116.06, up from 108.55 in the previous month of November. (MVA)

EXPAND

From Page 1

owners who have trees in their houses. They have kids and with this new law now, instead of going to stores they have trees in the house. How do you control that? How does [the CNMI Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division] enforce the law?"

Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) introduced Public Law 19-65 in the last Legislature.

Studies show that chewing betel nut causes oral cancer, which is the third

leading type of cancer in the CNMI according to the CNMI Cancer Registrar. There have been 57 cases of oral cancer in the CNMI from 2007 to 2014; 39 have already died.

Guerrero said PL 19-65's has good intentions but it needs to be revisited. He said there might be cases where minors would just pick betel nuts from the trees and preserve it in the freezer to have their own supply.

"When you see a minor out there, are you going to ask for a license or confiscate the betel nut? Where is the due process and how do you determine

who gave the minor the betel nut? Where did the minor get the betel in the first place? The minor won't tell you they got it at home."

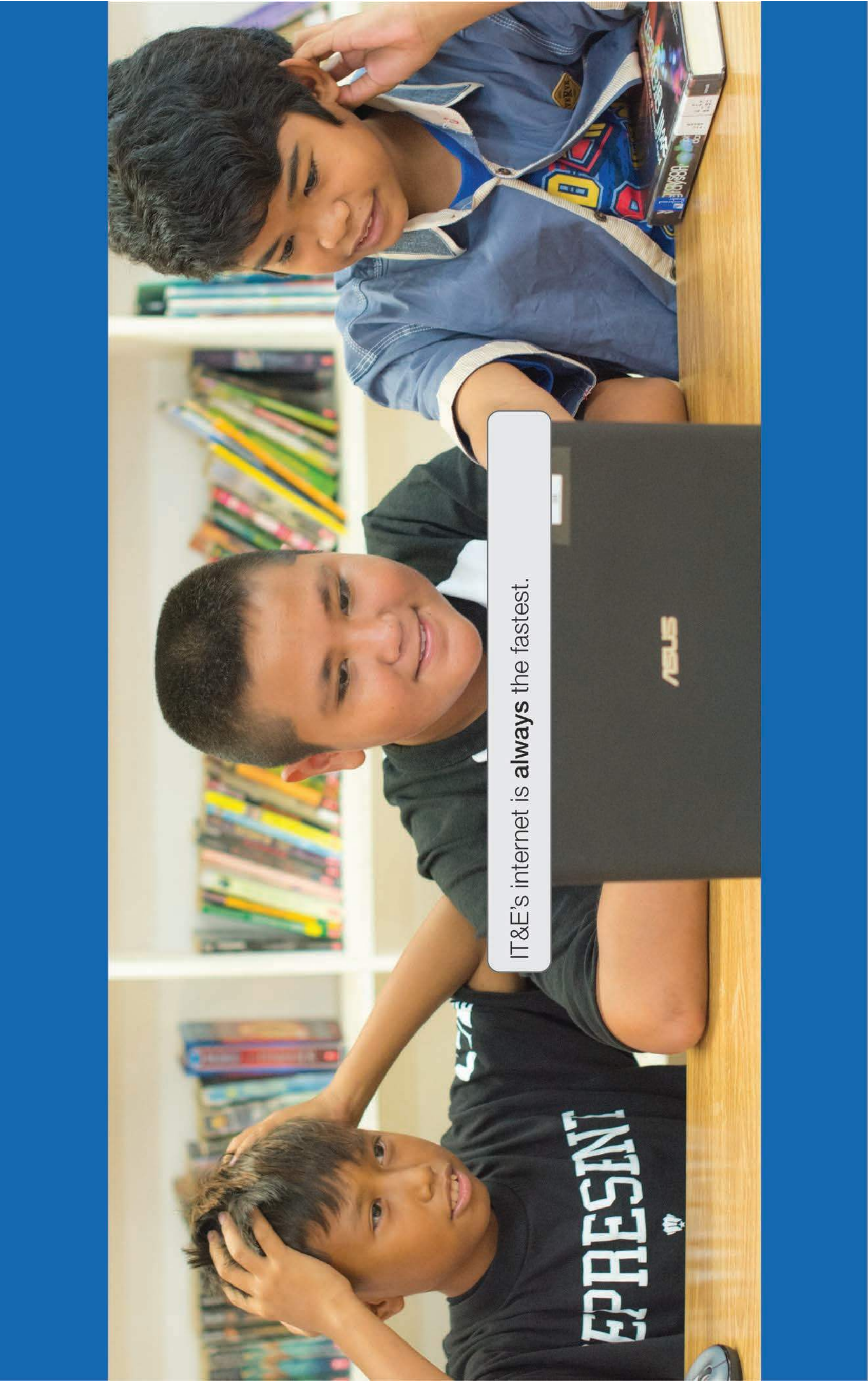
He said there is a need to make technical amendments to PL 19-65 to make it more effective. "Even at home, we have to remove the betel nut. Now, we can't do that because the homeowner won't permit you to do so. It only covers the store."

Guerrero, who chairs the House Commerce and Tourism Committee, is also hoping public schools and other learning institutions would ban betel nut. "I hope all

public schools would enforce [PL 19-65]. There's a new law in place that youth below 18 [years old] can't chew betel nut."

"We have a law to regulate the selling of the product to underage kids. How effective is that, that's a good question. Again, we're doing this one in stores and we can't do it to private landowners. We should also consider that a lot of homeowners also grow betel nut."

Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) has also re-introduced HB 20-2 that aims to increase the excise tax on the importation of areca nut.



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IN APPRECIATION

In a courtesy visit on Wednesday, American Red Cross' Pacific Islands Region chief executive officer Coralie Matayoshi, third from left, and chief development officer Jennifer Dotson, second from right, personally extended the organization's appreciation to Imperial Pacific International's support to the organization's work, particularly in the recovery work from the onslaught of Typhoon Soudelor and in ongoing events such as the Red Cross Walkathon, Red Cross health fair and Club 200. Others are, from left, JD Tenorio, disaster program manager of American Red Cross NMI Chapter; ARC board chair Tanya Belyeu-Camacho; John Hirsh, executive director of NMI chapter; IPI's chief of legal and vice president Charles McDonald and vice president Kelley Butcher; and Imperial Pacific International chief services officer Tao Xing.




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CUC looks forward to discussing Leidos report

Acting Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary Camacho said yesterday he is ready to meet with Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) to discuss the Leidos report, which came up with best possible power generation source for CUC.

Camacho said he is more than willing to meet with Dela Cruz to discuss the specifics of the report, after Dela Cruz questioned CUC's decision to scrap Leidos Engineering LLC's recommendations.

Dela Cruz chairs the House Committee on Public Utilities and Communication.

Two years have passed since the report first came out. "I will be coordinating with Rep. Dela Cruz to respectfully address and discuss all of these matters," said Camacho. He declined to cite specifics.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce also voiced out its desire for the government to revisit the report.

SCC secretary Alex Sablan, in a statement in late 2016, said that Leidos has been doing numerous reports and projects similar to this around the world.

"[Leidos] has done this

thing thousands of times and we felt that it was going to be the most impartial process in achieving our ultimate goal of getting consistent power. If not cheaper, at least it is consistent, reliable, and clean power," he said.

Leidos, a Fortune 500 company, was commissioned by the Office of Insular Affairs for a little over half-a-million dollars to study the type of power generation that would be most viable for the CNMI. Based in Reston, Virginia, the company earned about \$5.09 billion in 2015. *(Erwin Encinares)*

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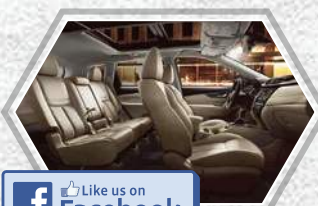
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Ex-assistant solicitor is NMI's new chief prosecutor

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has hired a former assistant solicitor from the Solicitor's Office in Athens and Lawrenceville, Georgia, to serve as the chief prosecutor at the OAG's Criminal Division, a position that has been vacant since September 2015.

Attorney N. Michele Harris arrived on Saipan last Jan. 3 and started work last Jan. 8.

She is expected to be sworn in as a member of the CNMI Bar in the next few days.

With Harris on board, the

OAG Criminal Division now has eight prosecutors.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Harris said one of her priorities will be just to put in place some case handling guides, to try to make the OAG Criminal Division a cohesive unit.

"We have a duty to bring forth cases that warrant prosecution. We represent the people, we represent victims. In certain cases, we are the voice for people who would otherwise not have a voice. At the end of the day, we have a duty to ensure that justice is carried out," she said.

Harris said she has been working with Attorney General Edward Manibusan as well as the attorneys in the Criminal Division to assess what has been done, things that they can continue to do, and make some changes too, "to bring forth cases that are adequately prepared and that are in the interest of all parties concerned."

The new chief prosecutor said it's her first time to come to Saipan and she finds the island "incredible and really nice," and that the people are very hospitable.

"I came with my husband

and our 11-year-old daughter. We have really enjoyed just exploring the island. Seems like daily we discover some new hidden treasures..." she said.

Harris learned about the chief prosecutor position from a job search.

"Honestly I did not know a lot about the island. I did a lot of research," said Harris, adding that her husband was excited about the opportunity.

From 2002 to 2009, Harris served as an assistant solicitor in Athens and Lawrenceville, Georgia, where she managed state court caseload of approximately 500 active cases,



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Attorney N. Michele Harris is the new chief prosecutor at the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division.

and participated in all stages of litigation preparation and trial. She also served as special prosecutor for domestic violence victims.

Harris' last job was a staff counsel for Geico. She obtained her juris doctorate in 2001 at the University of Georgia School of Law in Athens, Georgia.

As soon as Edward Manibusan took office as the first elected Attorney General of

the CNMI, he hired former Guam AG Leonardo M. Rapadas as chief prosecutor.

Rapadas took office as chief prosecutor in March 2015, but in September 2015 he resigned, citing personal matters in Guam. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds was then tapped as acting chief prosecutor. Aside from Hinds, other AAGs have also been given their chance to serve as acting chief prosecutor.

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Luta sale is stayed

The public auction for cargo ship M/V *Luta*, originally set for Wednesday, Feb. 8, will not push through.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood stayed the sale of M/V *Luta* for 60 days.

She announced the 60-day stay of the sale during a motions hearing last Tuesday, according to the minutes of the proceeding.

Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto is suing Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog and the owner/operators of M/V *Luta* for allegedly refusing to pay back the \$3.4 million that he put up for the vessel. After Yamamoto filed the lawsuit last Oct. 25, the U.S. Marshal Service seized the ship and appointed National Maritime Services as custodian of the vessel.

Aside from the ship's crewmembers, Long Consulting and Norton Lilly, two others—Rota Terminal and Transfer Co. and the Commonwealth Ports Authority—intervened in the lawsuit

to collect payment of services from Luta Mermaid LLC, the owner of M/V *Luta*.

Last Jan. 9, Tydingco-Gatewood ordered the sale of M/V *Luta* in the minimum bid amount of \$550,000 on Feb. 8, 2017, citing the vessel's expensive upkeep and the delay in securing its release.

At the hearing on Tuesday, National Maritime Services counsel Sean Frink informed the court that only Yamamoto paid the custodial services, now amounting to \$124,878. Yamamoto initially paid \$30,000.

In an order on Wednesday, Tydingco-Gatewood set a post-arrest hearing for Feb. 10, 2017. The judge said she anticipates that the focus of the hearing will be on the issue whether the arrest of M/V *Luta* was unreasonable.

Tydingco-Gatewood said Hocog's motion to dismiss Yamamoto's complaint will not be heard on Feb. 10. The judge said she will issue a separate order, either deciding the motion on the briefs or setting it for a hearing. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

By DEMALYNN S. PAGARAO
demalynn.sablan@gmail.com
REPORTER

Because of shame, fear, and lack of awareness, teen dating abuse is one of the most under-reported crimes. From one to three teens are victims of abuse by a dating partner, exceeding the other rates of violence among the youth.

These sobering statistics were the focus of Wednesday's signing that proclaimed February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

The Family Violence Task Force has teamed up with the Northern Marianas Coalition

Against Domestic and Sexual Violence to create an outreach this month and educate the community on the issue of teen dating violence.

"Teen dating violence is physical, sexual, and emotional abuse," said John Aguon, acting coordinator of the Family Violence Task Force.

This year marks the sixth proclamation signing for this chapter and Shelane Borja, special assistant to the CNMI Youth Affairs Office, who was also present in the first proclamation signing as a high school student, gave an inspirational remark.

"Teens most of the time do

not know where to go or who to go to for help. But we can let them know that there is help and that the coalition and the youth centers are here for that reason," Borja said. "Some teens do not grow out of the abuse. They will grow to think it is OK to be abused and think it is normal. The impact and trauma of teen dating violence can be immediate and long-lasting."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that access to the internet and the access that teens have on their phones have resulted in new ways of teen violence.

"You never know what they are looking at or who they are

talking to. Parents have to constantly make sure that we show our kids the right way to love. It all starts with us, the parents, showing that how a healthy relationship looks like," Torres said.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio said: "Coincidentally, I was asked about rape within same sex couples. I think it is important for us to recognize that it is not only between a boyfriend or a girlfriend that are experiencing teen dating abuse, but also in same sex couples. How we model ourselves at home is how our children will develop their relationship."

Some outreach events that will happen this month are Teen Slam Poetry both on Saipan and on Rota. Rota will hold theirs on Feb. 15 and

Saipan's will be held on Feb. 28. A pre-Slam workshop is scheduled for Feb. 23. And a Love is Respect Family Fun Night will be on Feb. 10.

For more information on events, contact the NMCADSV at 234-3878.

Governor, board push Camacho to head CUC

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors are pushing for Gary P. Camacho to become CUC executive director and are trying to convince a judge to waive the educational requirement of the job so he could officially assume the post.

Camacho currently occupies the post in an acting capacity.

Torres and the CUC board asked designated judge David O. Carter of the U.S. District Court for the NMI to temporarily waive the educational degree requirements for the position of executive director so the board could consider Camacho as an eligible candidate.

Camacho, CUC's Power Division manager, has been with CUC for over 21 years now. He has been holding the position of acting executive director since Dec. 6, 2015.

Since the executive director's position became vacant on July 14, 2015, CUC has received and reviewed 29 applications for that position.

In his letter to Carter, Torres, citing his many years of public service, said he has never seen an executive director as "proactive, knowledgeable, or competent" as Camacho.

Torres' letter was attached to CUC's motion for a waiver of stipulated order 1 requirement that CUC filed on Wednesday.

Torres noted that CUC has made remarkable and positive strides after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor in August 2015, and that much of that success "can be attributed to the conscientious and outstanding leadership" provided by Camacho.

The governor said CUC energized Saipan at remarkable pace, replaced or repaired over 750 fallen power poles, exchanged damaged transformers and strengthened the power plan, which restored power to nearly all homes and families within three months.

Torres said he instructed and continue to encourage the CUC board to satisfy all the mandates of the stipulated order as their No. 1 priority.

Torres said he understands the importance of filling the positions mandated by the stipulated order to ensure the proper management of CUC that provides thousands of households the essential ser-

vices to live safe and sanitary lives and help maintain the environment.

However, he said, the critical position of executive director remains unfilled and he is extremely concerned that CUC may not be able to meet the pending deadline for hiring a qualified executive director.

Torres said he has great respect for the mandates of stipulated order 1, but that in light of the many accomplishments and signs of progress within CUC, he is requesting Carter's consideration to temporarily modify the requirements to allow Camacho to "continue to serve the families, businesses, and residents of the CNMI."

In his declaration also attached to CUC's motion, Torres said that based on Camacho's employment with CUC over the last 21-plus years, together with the experience and knowledge he has acquired working with CUC's water, wastewater and power systems, he believes Camacho meets all the qualification requirements for the position of executive director, with the exception of the educational degree requirement.

CUC board chair Adelina C. Roberto also issued a declaration in support of CUC's motion for waiver of requirements.

Roberto disclosed that last Dec. 28, the board discussed the possibility of Camacho being appointed as permanent executive director, despite the qualification requirements in stipulated order 1.

Roberto said after considering the contributions and accomplishments of Camacho during his tenure as acting executive director, the board approved a motion directing CUC legal counsel James Sirok to request the court for permission to allow Camacho to become the permanent executive director.

Roberto said that based on her personal knowledge of the affairs and conditions and operations of CUC under Camacho's supervision as acting executive director, several accomplishments have been made.

Sirok said having Camacho as executive director and William Gilmore as deputy executive director provides CUC with a unique opportunity to be managed by a "tandem" executive team with a vast amount of utility power, water and wastewater experience and knowledge.

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Male suspect in domestic violence case pleads guilty

A man who was arrested twice last year on charges of domestic violence and repeatedly punching the window of a car being driven by a minor has pleaded guilty in Superior Court.

Jiro Kazuo Takai, 22, pleaded guilty on Tuesday to assault and battery-domestic violence and disturbing the peace as part of a "global" plea agreement.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo said that Takai will be sent to prison during his sentencing on March 28, 2017.

As part of the plea deal, assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr., counsel for the government, dropped the charge of robbery and disturbing the peace involving a minor.

Govendo ordered the Office of the Adult Probation to prepare a presentence investigation report as soon as possible.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, Takai punched his then-girlfriend in the face, causing her bodily harm and to be scared, on Sept. 27, 2016.

The victim suffered multiple injuries and could barely walk because of pain after Takai beat her up during their argument at his residence in Kannat Tabla, police said.

Takai was arrested last October. He subsequently posted bail. The following month, police arrested him again, this time for allegedly chasing a car being driven by a minor and repeatedly punching the window after she refused to open the door.

The 16-year-old girl was panting and her hands were shaking as she and her companion approached a police officer for help. Her 15-year-old male friend, who was her passenger, was also panting, police said. The two minors were on their way to school at that time. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



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Public invited to help launch ‘The Marianas’ brand

Who hasn't heard of the Bahamas? The Maldives? Or the Seychelles? Along those same lines, the Marianas Visitors Authority has begun transitioning to a new, easily identifiable marketing name for this destination: The Marianas.

“The Marianas brand aims

to generate a refreshing image for the Northern Mariana Islands. With the resurgence of tourism, it's time,” said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, in announcing the new brand. “For a number of years, the MVA has worked to highlight the

diversity and unique appeal of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Now that our international recognition has grown for each of those islands, and now that the Northern Islands are also receiving limited visitors, it's time to bring all our islands under one name, The Marianas brand, to create a more powerful and united—yet still diverse—image.”

The brand was inaugurated in Japan this month and features a new stamp with the words “The Marianas” and a new image of the islands' outlines. The image will eventu-

ally replace the “Saipan, Tinian, Rota” stamp in all markets.

Concepcion called on the Marianas community and friends across the world to help launch the new brand.

“Most corporate logo launches are huge events, but realistically, a \$1-million brand launching is way out of our budget range,” said Concepcion. “Rather, we are inviting our Marianas community to help make this a \$1-million splash across the world via social media by using the custom hashtag #MyMarianas for any and all social

media posts that will create a positive image for the Marianas. Start telling people, ‘I'm from the Marianas...or Rota in the Marianas.’ Whether via Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, or any other popular social media platform, we can all promote our beautiful island home here in the Marianas!”

In addition to teal and black versions of The Marianas brand logo, a blue version highlights Saipan, a red version highlights Tinian, and a green version highlights Rota.

Concepcion also noted that the southernmost island of the

Marianas, Guam, is a separate political entity with its own, well-established brand.

“Of course, we recognize that Guam is geographically part of the Marianas. However, they already brand and market themselves as ‘Guam,’” said Concepcion. “We respect that and are pleased to brand ourselves as The Marianas, which is also very fitting, as we have multiple islands in our destination.”

Copies of the new logo are downloadable at www.mymarianas.com. Meanwhile, the MVA will retain usage of its MVA logo featuring a latte stone, ocean waves, and the sun to represent the office, itself. (MVA)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Marianas Visitors Authority's new brand logos for “The Marianas” brand. The new logos replace the “Saipan Tinian Rota” stamp and features exclusive colors highlighting Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Why Neil Gorsuch is a good Supreme Court pick for Donald Trump

When it comes to vetting Supreme Court picks, senators of both parties should avoid getting in the way of distinguished nominees within the broad judicial mainstream, especially those who have proven themselves to be highly competent, experienced, ethical and not extremist.

This point of view used to be widely accepted. But since 22 Democrats opposed John Roberts in 2005, each new nominee has faced sharp partisan criticism and substantial opposition.

Now President Trump has nominated Neil Gorsuch, a judge on the Denver-based 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Given that this comes after one of the dirtiest tricks in Senate history—the Republican majority's refusal to even hold hearings on qualified, moderate Merrick Garland, the federal appellate court judge nominated by President Obama in March to replace the late conservative Antonin Scalia—Senate Democrats may go to extraordinary lengths to try to block Trump's nominee. They are eager to use Gorsuch's nomination as a vehicle both to demonstrate their understandable fury over Garland's treatment and to show solidarity with the millions of Democrats outraged over Trump's victory despite losing the popular vote and Trump's actions in his first two weeks as president.

But two wrongs still don't make a right. Gorsuch is an impressive jurist, and that judgment goes beyond his Harvard law background, his clerking for two U.S. Supreme Court justices and the acclaim he's received as a judge and professor. He is no Republican hard-liner. Gorsuch has views about criminal justice that emphasize civil liberties, not government authority, far from the norm for conservatives. In 2013, he gave a powerful, laudable speech lamenting the ever-growing complexity of the criminal code, wondering "what happens to individual freedom and equality when the criminal law comes to cover so many facets of daily life that prosecutors can almost choose their targets with impunity?"

There will be pushback from pro-choice groups. Gorsuch has not written explicitly about *Roe v. Wade*, but much has been read into his condemnation of assisted suicide on the grounds that "the intentional taking of human life by private persons is always wrong." Yet analysts say his confirmation would still leave the anti-Roe faction on the court a vote or two from the majority. Chief Justice Roberts is a conservative, but his history suggests he'd be wary of tossing out such a high-profile precedent.

For these reasons, we believe that if Gorsuch does well in his nomination hearings and if no red flags emerge in the heavy scrutiny he is likely to face in coming weeks, he deserves confirmation.

See **WHY** on Next Page

A clever presidential media diversion comes full circle

Adroitly and artfully, President Donald Trump masterfully used this week the populist antennae and messaging skill that made him what he is today.

He successfully diverted our media's big eye away from the story that was causing him a world of unexpected problems—his executive order temporarily banning refugee immigration from seven predominantly Muslim countries.

Instead, on Tuesday, Trump got us all focusing on a very presidential event he was sure would go extraordinarily well—the unveiling of his nominee for the Supreme Court, federal appeals court Judge Neil Gorsuch of Colorado. The rollout had originally been planned for this Thursday.

But after a weekend of criticism that greeted his Jan. 27 executive order—not just from Democrats but also from stunned fellow Republicans and leaders of America's allied nations—a panicky Team Trump had tried, but flailed and failed to ease mounting criticism. On Monday, White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer tried repeatedly arguing that what Trump had ordered was not a "ban" on Muslim refugees but something less than that. That fell flat, though, because Trump and Spicer had previously called it a "ban." Also, the previous Saturday, Rudy Giuliani had told Fox News that Trump had asked him to find a constitutional and legal way of achieving his campaign promise of a temporary "ban" on Muslim refugees. So, weary of the root canal-like fallout his Muslim immigration ban had ignited, Trump rushed his Gorsuch unveiling to Tuesday.

And it worked. At 8 p.m. Tuesday, America's news-watchers were focusing on the East Room of the White House. There, Trump walked to his podium bearing the presidential seal, with the red carpeted hallway as his iconic backdrop. Fittingly, Trump was wearing a new-look presidentially subtle blue striped necktie, rather than his extra-long red tie that had met his daily campaign needs. The president introduced Americans to his new Supreme Court nominee. A jurist with strong strict constructionist conservative credentials, Gorsuch, with his wife at his side, had the added virtue of looking and sounding as though he could have been central casting's choice for a Supreme Court justice.

As media diversions go, Trump's Supreme news making was a masterful success, while it lasted. But it lasted less than half-a-news cycle. Then, shortly after sunrise Wednesday, an irrepressible force erupted, yet again. It was a tweet from you-know-who. And before you could hit your snooze-button, our media's big

By **MARTIN SCHRAM**

Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.



eye had been diverted back to you-know-what.

"Everybody is arguing whether or not it is a BAN. Call it what you want, it is about keeping bad people (with bad intentions) out of country!" Trump tweeted.

Trump's problem with his handling of what we are short-handling here as his temporary ban on immigration by Muslim refugees is that it was seen, throughout the world, to be shattering the global notion that America taught the world the values and virtues of being a nation willing to welcome persons of all religions and races fleeing persecution in their homeland.

People around the planet know America as being the country that showed the world the greatest gift a nation can give its citizens—the gift of constitutional guarantees. Indeed, there are oppressed and fearful people in many countries who cannot quote one sentence from their own country's constitution (if indeed their country has one) but who can tell you something about the United States Constitution's famous First Amendment. Many know the First Amendment guarantees people freedom of speech and also freedom of religion.

For decades, Republicans running for president and serving in Congress have proudly reassured voters that they believe Supreme Court justices must be "strict constructionists"—jurists who will strictly interpret the Constitution's words.

The late Justice Antonin Scalia, whose seat Gorsuch has just been nominated to fill, preferred to say he believed a jurist should interpret the Constitution's words according to "textualism"—based upon the ordinary meaning of the Constitution's words, without trying to derive the writer's intention.

For our purposes here, we can be either strict constructionists or Scalian textualists.

In 1789, a young congressman from Virginia, James Madison, having sat through the discussions of the First Congress, wrote the clause in the First Amendment of the Constitution's Bill of Rights that states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

It is hard to imagine any circumstance by which the Founding Father who became our fourth president could have ever imagined, let alone, countenanced, the idea that one of his successors—having sworn to uphold that Constitution—might then consider it wise to issue the executive order that was just signed by America's 45th president.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Pour yourself a break

I've never suggested that anyone should sit in a beach chair and ignore the world. I must admit, however, that it works for me. But it's just one layer of defense against the world's encroachments. If you really want to keep everyone at bay, it helps to have a mug of something in hand. After all, "coffee break" is a just polite term for "go away and leave me alone."

We don't really need coffee for a coffee break, though. There are a lot of things that will do the trick. And since I'm not in the mood to actually do anything today, this is a perfect time to think about some favorite beverages.

I'll start with latte, a steamed-milk drink that's usually associated with coffee. A Taiwanese cafe and bakery chain called "85C" (so named for the optimal temperature to prepare coffee) offers latte made not with coffee but taro.

As Saipan residents know, taro is a staple of tropical islands. Well, as it turns out, it makes a mighty tasty latte. The taro makes the latte purple. Sugar is typically added to this concoction, but I've found that it's pretty sweet even without adding sugar. Speaking of skipping ingredients, the notion of having a latte without the caffeine I'd otherwise get from coffee is sometimes appealing.

On the other hand, sometimes caffeine is to be embraced, not avoided. Taiwan has this angle covered very well, too. If you're on the go, one noteworthy Taiwanese product is called Mr. Brown Iced Coffee. It's available in cans, and, despite the "iced" term, and it's good even when not chilled or iced. I knew a place in Guam that sold it for pretty cheap, so I was always hauling cases of the stuff to Saipan when I was a human yo-yo bouncing between the islands.

Another interesting concoction is bitter melon tea. We brew this at home; I've never seen it served in a cafe. Bitter melon,

also called bitter gourd is, like taro, a staple of the tropics (I point this out because some *Saipan Tribune* readers are checking in online from places like Montana and New York, so they may not be hip to tropical foods.)

Everyone I know regards bitter melon tea as an herbal remedy, and hardly something you'd drink for the fun of it. Me, I just like the taste of the stuff, served hot.

Speaking of bitter, if you like beer, then you might have noticed that the modern array of craft breweries often offers a strain called India Pale Ale. IPA uses a lot of hops. The hops impart a tangy and tasty bitterness to the brew.

IPA is fashionable these days. A glass of the stuff can easily set you back \$8 in some places. Its origins were based on necessity, however, not on taste. As the story goes, back in the days of old, when the British empire held India, India's hot climate was fouling the beer that the British were shipping. So the British added more hops, which serve as a preservative, and the resulting brew, dubbed India Pale Ale, was better able to survive the rigors of the environment.

The modern breeds of IPA have pretty much spoiled me. These days I pay more for one pint of the stuff than we used to spend on an entire case of beer in college. I'm not adjusting for inflation when I make that comparison, though, so maybe I'm not as spoiled as it seems. Fortunately for my thin wallet, my waistline reigns in my demand for IPA and its caloric payload, so I usually reserve Thanksgiving vacation for this indulgence.

One indulgence that I just can't resist is good old-fashioned coffee. Sure, it's old school, common, and hardly exotic, but there's always some sort of new twist on things that worms its

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



way into my wallet. For example, something that got popular a few years ago is the "Keurig" brand of coffee maker. This appliance uses disposable plastic pods to make single servings of coffee. Every cup is therefore a fresh cup. All sorts of coffee brands are now sold in these little pods.

Keurig started to play hardball with its customers a couple of years ago, unveiling a new line of coffee makers that, from my understanding, wouldn't accept the older style of coffee-filled pods. I therefore lost interest in buying any of the newer machines. I have no idea what the status of this product is nowadays. Fortunately, our older machines are still working. By the time they conk out I'm sure some new concept will be on the market and the cycle will begin anew.

Meanwhile, two reliable allies on the coffee front, Winchell's and McDonald's, always provide a snug harbor.

Anyway, no matter what the beverage is, be it hot or cold, fancy or common, go ahead and pour yourself some peace of mind. It might be the only break you get today.

A whopping 80-percent salary hike!

The elected elite recently increased its salaries by a whopping 80 percent. Its action, though, was rendered useless by the failure to appropriate funds for its new largess.

It openly boasts arrogance that literally kicked the teeth of employees and their families NMI-wide. And they call it "public service"—a self-serving policy benefitting me, myself and I.

Once more it was determined to leave the multitude in vicious decline while it fixes its elitist economic island living it high. Appalling the purposeful deceit denying employees some increase to meet fatal increases in the price of basic goods over the last 10 years. Isn't utility rates going up too?

They threw bones at employees—a 5-percent increase—as though they didn't know any better. I call it insult to injury, given the low salaries of most employees today. I'm sure they were relying on some help to improve family income even in a small way!

Raffy Torres and Arnold Palacios played possum (dead), leaving the island without taking any action on the measure. Rafaet Demapan garbled his ignorant explanation of a non-existent federal standard on salaries.

But Torres played smart, refusing to identify a source of funds. Now he's in a tango with his partner Raffy D that could turn diabolical.

This insult forces the multitude to ask whatever happened to all the "biba" turned "biliba" that further erodes trust in our governmental institutions? Wouldn't the salary increase wedge deeper divide between the "haves" as in the elected elite and "have-nots" of "we the people"?

It's good to know how the elected elite has adopted greed as its working vocabulary, arrogance its shining armor. But we weren't blinded at all by its ill-fated political miscalculation. Well, the cat is out of the bag! Isn't 2018 nearby?

This is the legacy of local Republican rhinos who have trashed and lost all sense of value and empathy. They could no longer feel the mind-numbing hardship of our people in the villages. Call it complacency!

It has successfully destroyed ordinary citizens by pushing them further into the abyss of poverty. It consistently cushioned Cadillac lifestyle while "we the people" salivate in poverty corner. When can you "do the right thing" by doing it right?

Your role: In defining "leadership," I defer to the biblical Moses, commanded by the Lord to pull the Jews out of Egypt to free them from slavery.

In a modern context, yours is to free our people from the hardship of economic slavery! Is this an issue you understand when you took the oath of office in recent past? Or did it slip and slide

into your usual redundant answer, "Not yet, already?"

Overlooking NMI needs: The 60-bed hospital capacity has been dwarfed by the increase of critical long-term patients needing timely medical help. As such, patients admitted for medical attention had to wait all day at the ER because of the lack of rooms on the floor. Ooops!

It's an inadequacy that has intensified in recent past given the increase in the local population, specifically those suffering from long-term illnesses. In brief, CHC needs immediate expansion to help the spike in critical patients. Does it matter to you that such is now the case at CHC?

The Public School System is another essential agency that requires tons of money for facilities, including the upgrade of instructions at an institution of learning frequented five days a week by thousands of our children. Isn't it time to buckle down for deliberative discussion on this too?

The number: You don the aura of greed tiptoeing self-serving 80 percent salary increase for yourself. When would you stop your fat cat greed?

I'm sure you know that the double-digit figure isn't a dancing number from Sesame Street. Nor did it come from grammar school kids doing simple arithmetic, e.g., "one plus one is two." Have you any sense of conscience and since when are taxpayers and their families immune from price increases in basic goods?

Reality check: Demapan and cronies have failed to see issues through the eyes of the ordinary people they represent! Isn't this a tall tale of their elitist culture, determined to ignore the struggle of ordinary families?

You skip private sector employees, the productive sector, as though they are aliens to the deepening hardship. Isn't it true that private industries fuel the local coffers? Are private sector employees used spare parts whose contributions are simply to enlarge the overflowing food sacks of non-productive government employees?

Have you peeped into the conditions of typical local families here to see how they've fared, absorbing the increase of basic goods, enduring stagnant wages while paying for the first family home, family car, and basic needs?

Isn't it true that their salaries have remained stagnant (no increase) for the last three decades under Republican charge? Is their hardship a reason to cushion your pockets with a whopping 80 percent increase in salary?

Investments: Isn't economic prosperity founded on healthy investments? Beyond BSI, is there any other major investor who has seen positive prospects of investing in the NMI after the

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



Fitch and Moody's report? Would they risk investing in a place like the NMI riddled with negative assessments?

Isn't financing institutions reliant upon global economic firms' assessment to protect the money of other people before any investment is made?

Relying on "temperamental" growth is to ignore that most of what you see grew like wild grass. In other words, they popped up all over without a plan. Did you get that pal? Or was it the result of your plan and did you ever have one to begin with?

It's clear our financial posture is dangerously wobbly, though, in grand self-denial. Is this an issue you've finally come to terms with or did it skip your nimble mind once more? Is EVERYbody home or "not yet, already?"

WHY

From Page 14

There's also a chance that the nomination fight fizzles out because of simple politics. Ten Senate Democrats up for re-election in 2018 represent states that Trump won on Nov. 8, and some may worry about what a no vote on Gorsuch would mean for their re-election chances.






Democrats may also want to delay any knock-down, drag-out confirmation fight for the future day Trump may get to replace one of the court's liberal judges with a conservative pick instead of swap a conservative for a conservative.

But even if Democrats mount opposition, the Republicans have 52 votes in the Senate and can use the "nuclear option" of changing Senate rules to overcome a filibuster if Republicans can't muster 60 votes to block it. Barring a bombshell, Gorsuch should prove he's within the legal mainstream and be on his way to confirmation.

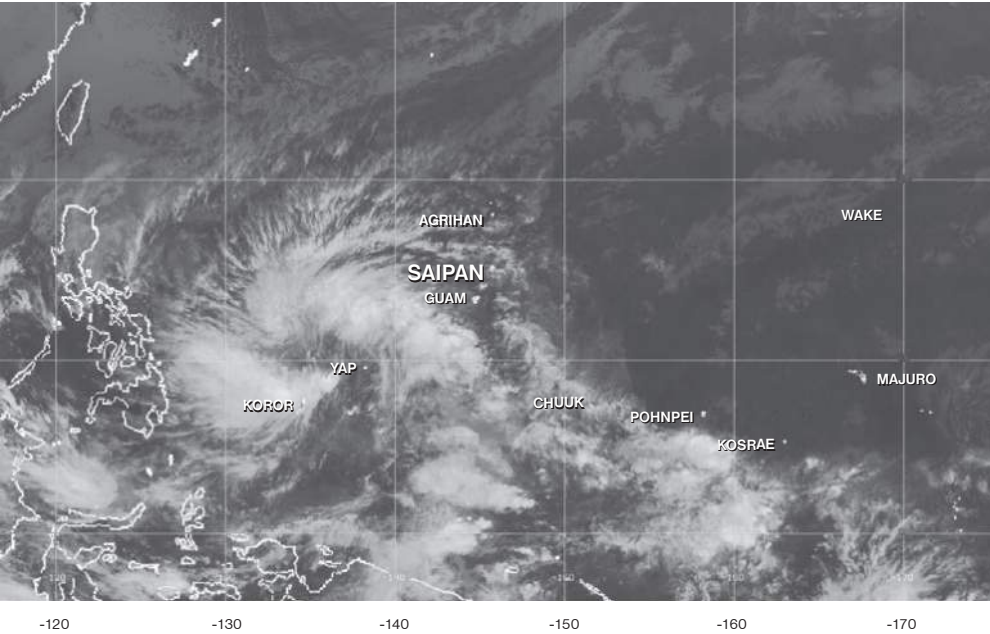
If he is confirmed, everyone should hope that Gorsuch will be a thoughtful, wise justice—even if many remain angry about Garland.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 4:40 AM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Winds have veered a little as the circulation well to the south of the Marianas has now passed our longitude. They should back again in the next day or two, then early next week they get really squirrely as the circulation gets caught up in an emerging mid-latitude frontal system. The resulting tangled mess gets pulled across the Marianas with winds in the GFS40 shifting from northeast to southeast to southwest to northwest then finally back to northeast. We could possibly even technically call it a frontal passage if this verifies, or even comes close. After this, looks like we go back to a dry-season like trade-wind regime again.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	83° / 76°
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
Chuuk	Showers	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Showers	84° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84° / 80°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	83° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	75° / 61°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	45° / 27°
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 64°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 64°
London	Showers	48° / 39°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	65° / 52°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 72°
Melbourne	Sunny	93° / 63°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	78° / 66°
New York	Partly Cloudy	35° / 22°
Osaka	Sunny	54° / 39°
Paris	Showers	50° / 43°
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	48° / 30°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	61° / 50°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	69° / 47°
San Francisco	Cloudy	42° / 22°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	43° / 23°
Tokyo	Sunny	55° / 36°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	44° / 29°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:53 AM	LOW TIDE		0.43
12:15 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.96
7:09 PM	LOW TIDE		0.43
-	-		-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:16 PM
Sunday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Monday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Tuesday	6:45 AM	6:18 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:13 AM	11:56 PM	-
Saturday	12:00 PM	-	-
Sunday	-	12:54 AM	12:51 PM
Monday	-	1:53 AM	1:44 PM
Tuesday	-	2:53 AM	2:41 PM

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 17, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily	LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	ZE581	9:50am	3:20pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW308	3:05am	6:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6	TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily	TW307	8:45pm	2:05am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
ZE582	4:30pm	9:05pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5	7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4
SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)				JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7	7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:40am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:55am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	4, 7	PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM	UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR	UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM				
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
UO43	1:40am	5:00am	1, 4, 6	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
OZ628/723	3:50am	12:50pm	Daily via ICN	PR307/1571	6:20pm	4:45am+1	3, 6 via MNL
PR1572/318	5:45am	12:20pm	4, 7 via MNL	UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily			
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily			
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily			
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						

COMMUNITY BRIEFS**Water outage yesterday in Kagman**

There was a temporary water service interruption yesterday afternoon, Feb. 2, 2017 in the Kagman I, II, III and IV areas, from 2:30pm to 12am. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of services soon thereafter. The purpose for the interruption was to repair a leak on the 8-inch transmission line that is connected to the 1 million gallon tank. Water Operations personnel of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. discovered the leak when conducting leak detection services. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282. **(CUC)**)

Preparations underway for this year's MMAC

The Marianas March Against Cancer planning committee's Subcommittee on Recruitment would like to remind team captains that Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2017, will be their first meeting for the upcoming annual event to be held on May 12, 2017, at Hopwood Middle School in Chalan Piao. The meeting will be held at the Commonwealth Cancer Association office in Gualo Rai at 6pm. For more information, contact the CCA at (670) 682-0050 or email at mmacteam@gmail.com. **(PR)**

Calling Tinian homestead applicants

Current Tinian homestead applicants interested in finding out the status of their homestead applications can contact Lisa Aguon, DPL Tinian Office, at (670) 433-9245 to book an appointment on Feb. 2 or 3, 2017. **(PR)**

Meeting of heirs today

The heirs of Leonard "Nahdo" Muna Camacho and Maria Campos Camacho will have a meeting today, Feb. 2, 2017, at 5:30pm at the Carolinian utt. All heirs of the following are invited: Ignacia Camacho Lifofoi, Soledad Camacho Cabrera, Francisca Camacho Torres, Consolacion Camacho Cabrera, Juan Campos Camacho, Gregorio Campos Camacho, Virginia Camacho Castro, Rufina Camacho Reyes, Antonia Camacho Sablan, and Angelina Camacho Anderson. For more information, call Daling Nanbina at 483-1304 or 323-2636. **(PR)**

13th Hot Pepper Festival this Feb.

The 13th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 18-19, 2017, will again have ferry service between Saipan and Tinian this year. Festival times will be from 2pm to 11pm on Feb. 18 and from 11am to 11pm on Feb. 19.

Ferry service aboard the *Super Emerald* will be available on Feb. 17-20, 2017. Round trip cost is \$15 (0-2 years old), \$30 (3-11 years old), and \$35

(age 12 and older). For one way, the cost will be \$8 (0-2 years old), \$15 (3-11 years old), and \$18 (age 12 and older).

Passengers are allowed up to 70 lbs of cargo, including bicycles (a \$10 fee will be charged for additional cargo). The ferry schedule will be announced shortly.

To support the festival, Star Marianas Air will also extend scheduled flights to 9:30pm on Feb. 17 and Feb. 18.

For more information, contact the MVA Tinian office at (670) 433-9365 or e-mail at vborja@mymarianas.com. **(MVA)**

Become a Reading Ranger at AMP

The American Memorial Park

is inviting first to third graders on Saipan to participate in this year's first Reading Ranger selection. Over three days, Feb. 7, 8, and 9, from 3pm to 4:30pm, young readers will be guided through *The Unbreakable Code* by Sara Hoagland Hunter by a park ranger.

To register your child, call lead ranger Brooke Nevitt or Jovanna Mafnas at 234-7207 or 2020. There are a limited number of spaces and participation will be determined by the date of registration. For more information on events at American Memorial Park, contact Nevitt at 234-7207 x 2020 or via email at: brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. **(NPS)**

Scheduled power outage tomorrow

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017, from 6am to 11am to de-energize the primary lines to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to safely change out wooden power poles to concrete along Flame Tree Road in Dandan. This is an effort to strengthen and harden the integrity of the distribution circuit.

Areas to be affected are Dandan Flame Tree Rd. (Gatbo Av., Tasi Ln., Tasi Dr., Fiesta St., Beach Av., and Sand St.), Hawaiian Rock Quarry, and Naftan Road (Obyan Beach Dr., Dela Concepcion Dr., and Santa Margarita Pl.). The Obyan water well will be affected.

Military, communities partner to clean up Eagle's Field

MANGILAO, Guam—A cleanup event will be held at Eagle's Field in Mangilao from 9am to noon, Feb. 3.

The cleanup is a joint effort between the Mangilao Mayor's Office, members of the military, a military spouse organization, and the community.

All members of the community are invited to attend. Volunteers will be picking up trash and sorting recycling to be donated to local schools. All volunteers are asked to bring a reusable water bottle. Water refills, gloves, and bags will be provided at the event. **(PR)**

**GRAND VRIO RESORT**
SAIPAN

Welcome to enjoy fantastic buffet at our **"Tropicana Restaurant"** (2nd floor of Taga Tower)! Performance is available on Sunday Brunch. All you can eat and drink! Champagne, beers.

*** Breakfast: 7:00am-10:00am * Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm * Sunday Brunch: 11:00am-2:00pm * Dinner: 5:30pm-9:00pm**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			2/1	2/2	2/3 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/4 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)
2/8 Sunday Brunch \$22 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/6	2/7 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/8 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/9	2/10 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/11 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)
2/12 Sunday Brunch \$22 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/13	2/14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/15 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/16	2/17 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/18 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)
2/19 Sunday Brunch \$22 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/20	2/21 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/22 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/23	2/24 Buffet Lunch \$14 Chinese New Year Eve Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/25 Chinese New Year Brunch \$25 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)
2/26 Sunday Brunch \$22 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/27	2/28 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)				

* Our **"Dolphin"** restaurant (10th floor of Crystal Tower in Grandvrio Resort Saipan) has reopened as A-La-Carte restaurant. Welcome to enjoy fast & nice Lunch Menu (\$8-) and authentic Japanese Shabu Shabu or Sukiyaki for your dinner (\$35). "Spectacular Ocean view and Sunset!" Starting from Nov. 07, 2016, our Dolphin restaurant brings out "Daily Chef's Special Lunch" from Mon. to Fri.; everyday is different; \$12 only, 15 servings per day; First in First Out! Opening time: Everyday Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm Last Order: 1:30pm / Dinner 5:30pm-9:00pm Last Order: 8:30pm
* **"Starlight BBQ"** Dinner Buffet Location: Poolside Price: Reg. AD \$39 CH: \$19 (Local: AD \$35/ CH \$17) Business hrs: 6:00-9:00pm
Menu: "All you can eat & drink" - beers, red & white wine, soft drinks, oolong tea and juices.
* Come and taste delicious curry & sandwich set (\$7.00 only), cake, café latte, organic smoothies... with unique ocean view at our **"Airi Coffee Lounge"**. Business hrs: 10:00am - 6:00pm
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For reservation or inquiry, please call: 670-237-2527 or E-mail: food.beverage@grandvrio-saipan.com



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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mount Carmel School's 2017 Teacher of the Year HeJin Lee, fifth from left, and Support Staff of the Year Marlon Villafuerte, fourth from left, were recognized by school officials. From left, vice principal Bobby Baldazo, vice principal Helene Manning, MCS board treasurer Will Hunter, Marlon Villafuerte, HeJin Lee, MCS board chair Vicente "Ben" Babauta, 2017 Teacher of the Year runner-up Luz Baldazo; director for Northern Marianas College's School of Education Charlotte Cepeda; Dandan Middle School vice principal Reo Arriola; Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez, and MCS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of February 3, 2017

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Imperial Pacific International	11/14/2016 SS-2017-X-016	Habitat Restoration & Conservation Plan	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Extended - Pending Submission
2. Hayden Corporation	12/27/2016 SWm-2017-X-021	Staging	Capitol Hill, Saipan	Wetland	Under Review - Extended
3. Marianas Enterprise Limited	12/30/2016 SWm-2017-X-022	Staging	Tanapag, Saipan	Wetland	Extended - Pending Submission
4. Micronesia Resort dba. Kensington Aqua Park	12/28/2016 SLR-2017-X-024	Aqua Park	San Roque, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved, 01/17/2017
5. Bridge Investment Group	12/30/2016 TPlm-2015-X-065	Staging	Tinian	Ports & Industrial	Under Review - Extended
6. Saipan Intl. Real Estate Development dba. Ocean Vista	01/04/2017 SMS-2015-X-010 Amendment 2017-1	Design Revision/Expansion	Capitol Hill, Saipan	Major Siting	Public Hearing 02/09/2017
7. Luana Inc. dba Heart Of Gold Divers	01/17/2017 S/TRm-2006-X-041	Marine Sports Activities Scuba Diving Tour Operation	Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Approved, 1/23/2017
8. Mac's Marine	01/17/2017 SLRm-2008-X-004	Marine Sports Activities Para-Sailing Operation	Tanapag, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved, 1/20/2017
9. Auto Marine Inc.	01/17/2017 SLRm-95-X-264	Marine Sports Activities Para-Sailing Operation	Tanapag, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved, 1/20/2017
10. MOI, LLC dba. Island Turtle Tours	01/18/2017 SS/LR/PI/CH/W-2017-X-026	Sightseeing Tour	Saipan Lagoon	Multiple APCs	Approved, 01/26/2017
11. Rota Department of Public Works	09/28/2016 RMS-2016-X-086	Coral Quarry Pit (Mining & Operations)	Igua, Rota	Major Siting	Certified Complete 01/19/2017
12. Napu Outrigger Canoe Club	01/19/2017 SS/LR-2017-X-027	Marine Sports Activities	Killili Beach, Saipan	Multiple APCs	Approved, 01/26/2017
13. Saipan TV Production Inc.	01/17/2017 SSm-2017-X-028	Filming/Photography	All sites, Saipan	Minor Siting	Approved, 1/23/2017
14. Seahorse, Inc. Saipan	01/24/2017 SLRm-98-X-19	Marine Sports Activities Banana Boat Operation	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal - Approved 02/01/2017
15. Seahorse, Inc. Saipan	01/24/2017 SS/LR-98-X-244	Marine Sports Activities Jet-Ski Operation	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal - Approved 02/01/2017
16. Aqua Marine Corporation	01/26/2017 SLRm-2005-X-127	Marine Sports Activities Scuba Diving Tour Operation	Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal-Under Review
17. BSEA, Inc.	01/27/2017 SLRm-2012-X-010	Marine Sports Activities Snorkeling Operation	Tanapag, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal - Approved 02/01/2017
18. J & K Marine Sports	01/27/2017 SS/LR-87-X-151	Marine Sports Activities Jet-Ski Operation	Susupe, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal - Approved 02/01/2017
19. American Pacific Textile	01/30/2017 SMS-97-X-85 Amendment 2017-1	Transfer of Permit	Tanapag, Saipan	Major Siting	Under Review
20. Aquaville Inc.	01/30/2017 SLRm-2013-X-006	Marine Sports Activities Banana Boat Operation	Tanapag, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal-Under Review
21. Auto Marine Inc.	01/30/2017 SLRm-98-X-224	Marine Sports Activities Reef Walker Operation	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal-Under Review

§15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulation requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM Office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joseph Tajeron, right, was recognized by Mount Carmel School as an honorary AlumKnight for over 12 years of service as MCS board chair, mock trial coach, and volleyball coach. On hand to present the award were, from left to right, vice principal Helene Manning, Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez, MCS board chair Vicente "Ben" Babauta, MCS board treasurer Will Hunter, and MCS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

Mount Carmel names Teacher and Staff of the Year

HeJin Lee, a fifth grade teacher at Mount Carmel School, was recognized this week as the school's Teacher of the Year, while Marlon Villafuerte, the school's maintenance supervisor, was declared 2017 Support Staff of the Year.

The runner-up for the TOY was science teacher Luz Baldazo. The awards were presented by Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez and school officials this past Tuesday during the school's annual Faculty/Staff Appreciation Program held as part of the weeklong Catholic Schools Week.

Lee was shocked over the award. As she put it, "I still cannot believe it."

When asked why she was in disbelief, she said, "I still have a lot of room for growth, so I am very humbled. ... This motivates me to work harder to become a better teacher."

Lee attributes her success to the support of her family, her teachers, and her colleagues. "My family has always supported me in whatever I do, even if means being away from them."

Originally from South Korea, Lee has lived on Saipan for several years now while her family remains in Korea.

Regarding her teachers, Lee recognized her instructors at Northern Marianas College: Velma Deleon Guerrero, Charlotte Cepeda, and Amanda Diaz. She also recognized her fellow teacher at the school who, she said, "I can always depend on."

Three years ago, after earning her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Northern Marianas College, Lee started teaching at the school. Since then, she has continued her education by completing various educational technology and literacy courses.

For his part, Marlon Villafuerte was recognized for his invaluable contributions to the school. School president, Galvin Deleon Guerrero was especially thankful for his service.

"With a good heart, he helps in many ways, from repairing air conditioners, keeping our campus safe and clean,

See MOUNT on Next Page

Fall in love at Hyatt

Fall in love this Valentine's Day at Hyatt Regency Saipan, which offers one of the most romantic es-

MOUNT

From Page 18

to setting up for various school events," Deleon Guerrero said. "Our school thrives because of his unsung support."

Honorary AlumKnights

Villafuerte and Lee were not the only ones recognized at the program. Joseph Tajeron and Social Studies teacher Rosiky Camacho were also granted honorary diplomas, declaring them AlumKnights for their 12 years of service at the school.

Camacho is a lifelong teacher who once also served as a representative at the CNMI House of Representatives.

Tajeron has coached mock trial and volleyball and served as the chairman of the school's board of directors for four years. Under Tajeron's leadership, the school reversed a decade of enrollment decline, going from about 250 students to a current enrollment of over 500, improved its financial situation, raised scores on standardized tests, and switched to a new accreditation model.

On top of that, Tajeron led the school board to give faculty and staff the first significant salary increase in over a decade. (MCS)

caples on island, where legendary sunsets meet the horizon. Take a moment to share the sunset, enjoy our garden lights and select the dining experience for your perfect Valentine's dinner.

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Kili Café & Terrace is known for providing a charming buffet for the entire family. This Valentine's Day, make it a family affair. The price is \$55 per person, \$35 per Club at the Hyatt member and \$27.50 per child (ages 6-12 years). Call 234-1234 Ext.

26 for reservations.

The price for Valentine's dinner at Miyako is \$55 per person and \$35 for Club at the Hyatt member. Call 234-1234 Ext. 26 for reservations.

At Teppanyaki, the seven-course set menu highlights a half Maine lobster and certified Angus beef rib eye steak. The price for this set menu is \$100 per person and \$70 Club at the Hyatt member. Call 234-1234 Ext. 26 for reservations.

Celebrate Valentine's Day at

Saipan's only authentic Italian restaurant, Giovanni's. The price for an Italian dinner is \$150 per couple and \$120 per couple Club at the Hyatt member. Call 234-1234 Ext. 26 for more information.

Gift certificates and specials with resident identification are available at i Saguá Spa. For information and reservations, call 234-1234 Ext 35 or 323-5888 or email: spnrs.isagua@hyatt.com. Valid from 1 Dec. 1, 2016, to Feb. 28, 2017. (Hyatt)



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Northern Marianas Decent Corp. officers met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres on Jan. 13, 2017.

NMDC wants case reheard by appellate court

The Northern Marianas Decent Corp. held a general membership meeting on Jan. 4 at the Carolinian *utt* and elected a new board and officers.

The new board members are Juan S. Torres, Felicidad T. Ogumoro and Thyron P. Kileman.

The corporation's new officers are John Bolis D. Gonzales, president; Daniel O. Quitugua, vice president; Les Ogumoro-Uludong, secretary, and Frank Tomokane, treasurer.

Among those present at the meeting included House Speaker Ralph S. Demapan and Rep. Alice Santos Igitol.

Members were informed of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision in the *John*

Davis v. CNMI Board of Elections Commission case.

Joseph "Jed" Horey, the attorney who represented NMDC as an *amicus* party, briefed members on the substance of the ruling and how the three-judge panel reached their conclusion.

This case was originally litigated in the CNMI federal court before Judge Ramona V. Manglona where she ruled in favor of the plaintiff. The case was an Article 12 issue where the plaintiff asserted that he has a constitutional right, pursuant to 15th amendments of the U.S. Constitution, to vote on any issues put forth before the voters, including restrictions on alienation of land known

as Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution as predicated by the CNMI Covenant, a political agreement ratified by the people of the CNMI and that of the United States in 1976.

The corporation does not assent to the ruling and instructed its counsel to file a petition for a rehearing "en banc" (by the full court). This petition is asking the following: 1) the entire memberships of the appellate court to hear the full arguments; 2) grant our petition to be considered, not as an *amicus* party, but rather the primary intervenor in the case, since the CNMI Board of Elections through the Office of the Attorney General did not take any further action; and 3)

that the full appellate membership carefully consider the background definition of Northern Marianas decent as enumerated in Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution.

NMDC members consider it important to seek support from government leaders about this issue. NMDC members met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres on Jan. 13, 2017, to discuss the matter. Torres fully supported the decision to file the rehearing petition.

NMDC is open to all interested NMDs who wish to take part in advocating, protecting, and advancing the interests and rights of the indigenous population. Call 285-6382 or 989-8526 for more information. (PR)

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES**
**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PASSENGER
LOADING BRIDGES REPLACEMENT PROJECT**
AIP NO. 3-69-0002-87/XX

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for replacement of passenger loading bridges at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, AIP No. 3-69-0002-87/XX, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Scope of Work (SOW) includes overall construction management services for the duration of the project. Details are available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for qualification (RFQ) statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager, in writing via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, via fax to (670) 664-3533 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, January 27, 2017, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall CM experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – 30 points;
2. CM experience related to airport related projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); – 30 points;
3. Level of proficiency in performing CM services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA regulations and requirements and AIP grants – 15 points;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience, firm's ability to perform the services and the firm's professional integrity and competence – 15 points; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable – 10 points.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2017**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified construction management firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

All consultants shall comply with all applicable FAA requirements under this federally funded project.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority
/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: January 12, 2017

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES**
**BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PERIMETER FENCE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**
AIP NO. 3-69-0003-27/XX

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for replacement of the perimeter security fence at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, AIP No. 3-69-0003-27/XX, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Scope of Work (SOW) includes overall construction management services for the duration of the project. Details are available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for qualification (RFQ) statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager, in writing via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, via fax to (670) 664-3533 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Monday, January 30, 2017, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall CM experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – 30 points;
2. CM experience related to airport and security related project requirements funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); – 30 points;
3. Level of proficiency in performing CM services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA regulations and requirements and AIP grants – 15 points;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience, firm's ability to perform the services and the firm's professional integrity and competence – 15 points; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable – 10 points.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified construction management firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

All consultants shall comply with all applicable FAA requirements under this federally funded project.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority
/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: January 12, 2017

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**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES**
**TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
AIRFIELD MARKING REPLACEMENT PROJECT**
AIP NO. 3-69-0011-27/XX

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for replacement of the airfield markings at Tinian International Airport, AIP No. 3-69-0011-27/XX, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Scope of Work (SOW) includes overall construction management services for the duration of the project. Details are available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for qualification (RFQ) statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager, in writing via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, via fax to (670) 664-3533 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Monday, January 30, 2017, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall CM experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – 30 points;
2. CM experience related to airport and airfield related projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); – 30 points;
3. Level of proficiency in performing CM services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA regulations and requirements and AIP grants – 15 points;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience, firm's ability to perform the services and the firm's professional integrity and competence – 15 points; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable – 10 points.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified construction management firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

All consultants shall comply with all applicable FAA requirements under this federally funded project.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority
/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: January 12, 2017

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES**
**BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
AIRFIELD MARKING & SIGNAGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**
AIP NO. 3-69-0003-26/XX

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for replacement of the airfield markings and signage at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, AIP No. 3-69-0003-26/XX, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Scope of Work (SOW) includes overall construction management services for the duration of the project. Details are available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for qualification (RFQ) statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager, in writing via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, via fax to (670) 664-3533 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, January 27, 2017, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall CM experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – 30 points;
2. CM experience related to airport and airfield related projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); – 30 points;
3. Level of proficiency in performing CM services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA regulations and requirements and AIP grants – 15 points;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience, firm's ability to perform the services and the firm's professional integrity and competence – 15 points; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable – 10 points.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2017**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified construction management firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

All consultants shall comply with all applicable FAA requirements under this federally funded project.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority
/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: January 12, 2017

2016 Miss Marianas passes NCLEX

Another Northern Marianas College graduate has joined the list of students who have passed the challenging National Council Licensure

Examination for Registered Nurses. Peachy Quitugua, who graduated from NMC last May 2016, took the exam in January.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Peachy Quitugua, who graduated from Northern Marianas College last May 2016, took the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses in January.

Tracy Guerrero joins Triple J

On Feb. 1, Tracy Guerrero joined Triple J Saipan as the new corporate controller.

In her role, Guerrero will be tasked with overseeing financial management and reporting functions of Saipan, Palau, and the Marshall Islands. She will also partner with the Triple J executive committee in carrying out the company's strategic objectives in an administrative capacity.

Guerrero holds an MBA from



Guerrero

to our already talented team on Saipan. We're excited for her to get started," said Jeff Jones, Triple J Enterprises president.

Triple J Saipan recently opened two new restaurants, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. and Surf Club. The most recent project, Saipan Comfort Homes, a federal tax credit housing program, is slated to open in 2017.

Triple J Enterprises Inc. has served the island communities for over three decades.

The Triple J group of companies include the Triple J Auto Group, which represents Ford, Lincoln, Mazda, Honda, Acura, Kia, and a used car dealership. Triple J Rentals is the licensee for Hertz Rent A Car on Guam, Saipan and Palau. Five Star Wholesale Foods distributes high-quality food items including certified Angus beef, Hawaii Water, and Tyson food products. Triple J Restaurant Group operates Outback Steakhouse in Guam, and Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Surf Club, Tony Roma's, Capricciosa, and Truong's Vietnamese Restaurant on Saipan. **(PR)**

The NCLEX-RN tests an individual's nursing knowledge, skills, and abilities essential to the safe and effective practice of nursing at the entry level. The exam is used by nursing boards in all U.S. states and territories to award nursing licenses.

"We are extremely proud of Peachy's accomplishment," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "She now joins other NMC students who have passed the NCLEX and are pursuing their medical career goals."

Quitugua was crowned 2016 Miss Marianas last July. "In addition to her academic abilities, Peachy also has strong leadership skills which will help her as she pursues a career in nursing," said Rosa Tudela, who chairs the Nursing Department at NMC. "We are proud of her and wish her well in all her endeavors."

"The major factor that contributed to my passage of the NCLEX was my family," Quitugua said. "They were my main support system. They believed in me and provided

any and all support they could from when I started out as a nursing student to now achieving my goal as a registered nurse. My mother has been both my mentor and my inspiration; she always reminded me that I could accomplish anything I dreamed of.

"Our NMC instructors provided us with abundant knowledge through coursework, clinical experience, and community work that prepared us well for the NCLEX-RN," Quitugua added. "They shaped our minds and gave us

a will to work hard. I'm extremely grateful to NMC and our instructors for giving us this opportunity."

Asked what advice she would give other students who are preparing to take the NCLEX, Quitugua said, "You have to believe in yourself, work hard, and never give up. Remember, don't study just to pass the NCLEX, study to be the best nurse you can be."

For more information about the NMC Nursing program, contact the NMC Nursing Department at 237-6743 or visit the Nursing Department office in Building C at the NMC As Terlaje campus (M-F, 8am-4:30pm). **(NMC)**



is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following vacant positions:

(1) ACCOUNTANT - ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

High school diploma/GED required, College degree in related field, highly preferred. Four (4) years progressive experience in accounting, preferably from a high volume hotel, AA or BA in either accounting or in the hospitality finance is preferred. Strong math and computer skills, particularly with spreadsheets, knowledgeable with accounting software are required. Must have an eye for detail; strong time management and organizational skills are essential. Must be able to work under pressure and can work a flexible schedule including week-ends and holidays when required. Must go through a pre-employment drug test.

(1) IT TECHNICAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST

High school diploma/GED required, College degree in related field highly preferred. Advanced experience in the configuration, installation repair and troubleshooting of computer hardware, network switches, network line connection, routers, Ruckus A/P, phone lines, phone units and other computer peripherals. Advanced experience in networking phone system and security camera. Advanced experience with desktop operating systems and MS applications. Advanced experience with skills in problem identification and problem resolution techniques. Ability to prioritize tasks with long term projects and work in a fast paced environment with minimum supervision, knowledge in property management POS, PBX system, web application, and SAP, must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends, holidays and overtime if necessary. Working conditions involve lifting and transporting moderately heavy objects such as computers and peripherals. Must go through a pre-employment drug test.

UPHOLSTER

High school diploma/GED required, Two (2) years experience as an Upholster with above average knowledge in upholstery making, designing and conceptualizing, knowledge on stitching by hand or with the use of big sewing machines, repairing or redesign wrecked upholsters, must recognize different methods of upholstery making both in household and automobile, be able to communicate with the customers well and easy to understand what they want, must be meticulous with his/ her work, must be goal oriented and can meet deadlines. Must go through a pre-employment drug test.

(30) COOKS

High school diploma/GED required, one (1) year experience as a cook in, international cuisine is required and preferably from a full service hotel or high volume restaurant, able to read and follow standardized recipes, strong knowledge of proper food handling procedures, must have problem solving skills, be self-motivated and organized, must be able to work under pressure and adaptable to last minute work preparation, able to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays, able to work as part of a team in a busy kitchen atmosphere, must go through a pre-employment drug test.

(5) GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Two (2) years experience as a general maintenance worker is required, must be able to work independently, must be able to move, carry and lift up to 50 pounds, must be a team player and has good interpersonal skills, able to work flexible schedule including nights, weekends and holidays.

(1) CARPENTER

One (1) year carpentry experience or any equivalent combination of experience and/or education from which comparable knowledge, skills and abilities have been achieved. Incumbent in this classification is exposed to restricted movement, extreme temperature and intense noise inherent to carpentry position. Must be able to lift and carry objects up to 45 pounds. Must be able to work flexible schedule including week-ends and holidays.

(1) SUPERVISOR, CARPENTER

Two (2) years work experience in Carpentry, in a supervisory level is required, from a high volume hotel or building complex industry preferred, must be able to lift and carry objects up to 45 pounds, must be able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

(1) DEMI CHEF

Two (2) years work experience as a Demi Chef in a high volume restaurant or hotel is required. Must be able to work under extreme pressure, stand on feet for long periods of time and work in a heated environment, able to work nights, early morning hours, weekends and holidays.

Application forms may be obtained and submitted to our Security Office located on the South Wing of Fiesta Resort & Spa. Deadline for submission of applications to be considered is February 6, 2017.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950-1055
Tel.: (670) 236-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Procurement, Delivery, Training and Certification of Brand New Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Equipment For the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Project No. CPA-RFP-006-17

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies to procure and deliver brand new self-contained breathing (SCBA) equipment for the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Departments at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, the Tinian International Airport and the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. Proposals are to include procurement, delivery, training and certification of equipment to each respective airport.

The equipment shall include the quantities and details and product specifications as provided within the scope of work. The scope and product data are available for pick up at the CPA Administration Office.

The proposals shall include the following:

1. Letter of interest;
2. Team Members;
3. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications, if available);
4. Available resources to accomplish the project;
5. Cost proposal (in itemized SOW format); and
6. Valid Business License.

The contract period for procurement, delivery and certification will be based on the bidder's proposal. However, liquidated damages of \$500.00 shall be assessed the winning bidder for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the acceptance date without approved excuse by CPA.

One original and four copies of all proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than 4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2017.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All bidders responding to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the procurement, including excise tax and associated shipping costs.

The procurement is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Total cost for equipment procurement, delivery, training and certification	40%
2. Timeframe for delivery, programming, training and certification	30%
3. Experience of the firm on similar or related systems	15%
4. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff	15%

Questions and inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals shall be submitted in writing at least fourteen (14) days prior to proposal submission date and may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to Assistant ARFF Chief William Camacho at bcamacho@cpa.gov.mp.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: January 18, 2017



MVA

The Marianas Visitors Authority joined hands with HK Express to host a media roundtable in Hong Kong on Jan. 16, 2017, to announce the launch of direct service from Hong Kong to Saipan commencing Jan. 17, 2017. Pictured from left are: MVA's Guangzhou Office market manager Yukee Chen, HK Express director and CEO Andrew Cowen, CNMI special assistant for administration Shirley Ogumoro, MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, HK Express executive chairman and president Jimmy Ma, HK Express general manager of Asia Pacific & Ancillary Revenue Sherman Luk, HK Express general manager for Strategy & Regulatory Affairs Philip Herbert, and MVA Shanghai Office marketing manager Cyril Song.

HK media highlight direct service to Saipan

Media in the region highlighted the direct airline service by Hong Kong's low-fare airline, HK Express, from Hong Kong to Saipan, following the launch of service on Jan. 17, 2017.

Four Hong Kong newspapers and several online media featured the launch following a media roundtable held on Jan.16, 2017, in Hong Kong with HK Express executive chairman and president Jimmy Ma, director and CEO Andrew Cowen, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, and CNMI special assistant for administration Shirley Ogumoro.

"We're excited for the new direct service, which provides more convenient travel at super low cost for visitors from both Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta in China," said Concepcion. "The tourism industry is seeing an evolution in the way people are traveling the world with the increase of low cost carriers in Asia-Pacific and Europe. LCCs allow customers to pay for low airfare and hence spend more on hotels, dining and other ancillary services at their destination."

Participating media were *Hong Kong Economic Times*, *Ming Pao Daily News*, *Ta Kung Po*, *Oriental Daily News*, and several popular on-line media. The coverage is valued at nearly \$44,000.

HK Express now flies from Saipan to Hong Kong on Monday, Thursday, and Sunday, with return flights to Saipan on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. (MVA)



MVA

The Marianas Visitors Authority and HK Express held a media roundtable in Hong Kong on Jan. 16, 2017, to announce the launch of direct service from Hong Kong to Saipan on Jan. 17, 2017.



MVA

Officials of the U.S. Consulate joined the Marianas Visitors Authority and HK Express at the launching of direct flights from Hong Kong to Saipan on Jan. 17, 2017. From left are: U.S. Consul for Economic Affairs Brian Bedell, MVA managing director Chris A. Concepcion, CNMI special assistant for administration Shirley Ogumoro, U.S. deputy consul general Thomas Hodges, and HK Express commercial director Luke Lovegrove.



MVA


Hong Kong Express launched direct service from Hong Kong to Saipan on Jan. 17, 2017. MVA



One-hundred-seventy-eight passengers travelled to Saipan aboard the inaugural flight of Hong Kong Express from Hong Kong on Jan. 17, 2017. MVA

One-hundred-seventy-eight passengers travelled to Saipan aboard the inaugural flight of Hong Kong Express from Hong Kong on Jan. 17, 2017. MVA






Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS

DPW/FHWA-17-IFB-002

ISLAND WIDE EMERGENCY REPAIR, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) is soliciting sealed bids for the Island Wide Emergency Repair, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available in Electronic Bids on January 20, 2017 at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

Breach of Ethical Standard

- **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. **NMIA Section 70-30.3-725 (a)**
- **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order. **NMIA Section 70-30.3-725 (b)**
- **Contingent fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. **NMIA Section 70-30.3-730**

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **February 08, 2017 10:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan.** The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 24, 2017 to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW/FHWA-17-IFB-002**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, March 01, 2017**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **March 01, 2017**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 01, 2017**, and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **March 10, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **10:00 a.m. local time, March 15, 2017**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on March 01, 2017**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid form of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Hold security shall be a great bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other security acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations §70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Gov't Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Eighty (180) working days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway projects, FP-03.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

STEM ADVOCATES

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, seated right, meets with Dr. Vidalino Raatior, seated left, from the University of Hawaii–Hilo to discuss initiatives that support the enrollment and success of college students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Raatior is also the project manager for the Islands of Opportunity Alliance–Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program, which was established to help meet the needs of underserved STEM students within the Pacific region. Also in photo are, standing from left, Leo Pangelinan, NMC dean of Student Services; Dr. Alfredo DeTorres, NMC Natural Resources Management coordinator; and Dr. Brady Hammond, NMC Language and Humanities chairperson.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2016/2017 tax forms are now available

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson reminded the public yesterday that tax forms are available online at the Department of Finance website at www.cnmidof.net or at their office in the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center. All W2s for government agencies will be distributed with payroll checks to payroll supervisors this week.

Different tax forms can be downloaded in PDF form by accessing the “download forms” tab on the main menu, with further instructions available and additional forms provided on www.cnmidof.net/rev/forms.asp.

The general rule for which type of income tax return to use are as follows:

■ U.S. (US), CNMI (MP), and Guam (GU) citizens, bona fide residents to the CNMI and resident aliens meeting the green card or substantial presence test, use the following forms as appropriate: Form 1040EZ-CM, Form 1040A-CM, Form 1040CM

■ Nonresident aliens, use Form 1040NR-CM. You are a nonresident alien if you are not a U.S. green card holder (granted immigration status as lawful permanent resident of the United States) or you do not meet the substantial presence test. Refer to the 1040NR for more guidance or consult a tax professional.

The filing form due dates are as follows:

- 2/28/2017 - 2016 OS-3710
- 2/28/2017 - 2016 W-2CM
- 3/15/2017 - 2016 1065-CM
- 3/15/2017 - 2016 1120S

These due dates are for quarterly and annual filings only within 60 days. All filings are due by 4:30pm on the due date of the respective form.

For more information or assistance, call 664-1000, 1040, 1043, 1098 or stop by the Division of Tax and Revenue Office. (DoF)



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES

By order of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, CUC is authorized to adjust the Fuel Adjustment Charge, previously known as Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC, depending on the price of oil. Adjustments are made when the “Mean of Platts Singapore” monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the Fuel Adjustment Charge. Due to an increase in the average fuel prices, CUC will adjust the fuel-charge by 5.61%. Accordingly, the Fuel Adjustment Charge has increased from \$0.15512 per kWh to \$0.16381 per kWh effective February 1, 2017.

BASE RATES

	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
1 Monthly Customer Charge	\$ 7.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 9.06
2 Base Rates Per kWh:				
	KWH LEVELS			
1) 1 to 350	\$ 0.0210	\$ 0.1130	\$ 0.1240	\$ 0.1070
2) 351 to 1,200	\$ 0.0970	\$ 0.1130	\$ 0.1240	\$ 0.1070
3) 1,201 and over	\$ 0.1580	\$ 0.1130	\$ 0.1240	\$ 0.1070

*Municipal Pumping

FUEL ADJUSTMENT CHARGE or FAC (Previously known as Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC)

	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
Current FAC (Effective 02/01/17)	\$ 0.16381	\$ 0.16381	\$ 0.16381	\$ 0.16381
Previous FAC (01/01/17 - 01/31/17)	\$ 0.15512	\$ 0.15512	\$ 0.15512	\$ 0.15512

*Municipal Pumping

PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING AND PRIVATE AREA LIGHTING TARIFF

Availability: Applicable to public outdoor streetlighting service and private area lighting where CUC owns, maintains and operates such facilities.
Energy Charge: The Energy Charge is the kWh multiplied by the sum of the applicable Electric Base Rate and the Fuel Adjustment Charge.
Fixture Charge: See below.

FIXTURE TYPE	WATTS	KWH/MONTH	FIXTURE CHARGE PER MONTH
1 Long Arm	250	101	\$ 11.67
2 Short Arm	175	71	\$ 8.33
3 LED	140	57	\$ 10.83

ELECTRIC NON-RATE FEES

1 Late Charge (monthly)	1% of Past Due
2 NSF Check / Returned Check Charge	\$ 40.00
3 Convenience Fee (for pay-by-phone and online payments) - Temporarily Suspended	\$ 1.50
4 Unauthorized Connection	\$ 550.00
5 Reconnection at the Pole	\$ 200.00
6 Investigation (no charge for first two investigations)	\$ 210.00
7 Disconnection Notice - Temporarily Suspended	\$ 15.00
8 Meter Change Out	\$ 95.00
9 New Service - Single Phase	\$ 135.00
10 Inspection of Service (no charge for first two inspections)	\$ 90.00
11 Meter Test - Single Phase	\$ 75.00
12 Meter Test - Three Phase	\$ 110.00
13 Disconnection at the Meter	\$ 45.00
14 Reconnection at the Meter	\$ 60.00

Updated February 2017



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-17-016

FEASIBILITY STUDY OF WATER SUPPLY ALTERNATIVES FOR THE ISLAND OF SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for professional services to prepare a comparative feasibility assessment of water supply treatment alternatives, including desalination (RO and thermal/evaporative). The assessment will compare, at a minimum, location, type, size, cost, and funding options for each alternative to implement, construct and operate.

The scope of work and solicitation package will be emailed upon request, by the CUC Procurement and Supply Office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except on government observed holidays. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement and Supply Division.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be conducted at the CUC Conference Room No. 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building on **February 15, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**. A teleconference number will be provided to interested off-island participants to call in and attend.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC RFP-17-016 - Feasibility Study of Water Supply Alternatives for the Island of Saipan” to the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P. O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 02, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible Proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competitive Proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the offeror due to lack of information of understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award of a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws. This bid and the ensuring contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the proponent, awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI business license in compliance with the licensing laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of the contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. Proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 17, 2017**, to Manuel B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to William Gilmore, CUC Deputy Executive Director via email address william.gilmore@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant, via email address at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN Purchasing Administrator

Expanding student success at the Hyatt

Hyatt Regency Saipan would like to congratulate one of its own, Karen Buniag, for her academic and professional achievements. Buniag is a wait staff member at Miyako, the hotel's Japanese restaurant.

Buniag provided closing remarks for the Marianas Tourism Educational Council summit on Thursday, Jan. 25. The summit was held to further support the Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically Clubs in promoting tourism.

Prior to her graduation from Marianas High School in June

2014, Buniag learned about the Student Cooperative Education Learning Program, in which students would enroll in a work-study program at sponsoring organizations, exposing them to "the real world of professional work."

Buniag's initial placement was in the Human Resources Department at Hyatt Saipan. For her three-month term, Buniag learned much about teamwork, cooperation and contribution "and how each employee plays an important role in a big organization."

From that point on Buniag

was motivated to look into a career in hospitality. She enrolled in the American Hotel & Lodging Program at Latte Training Academy.

"As a kid, I would tag along my father's side as he made deliveries to hotels—he worked as a hotel supplier. That was my first exposure to the hospitality industry and everyone was so pleasant and friendly. I knew I wanted to come back one day," said Buniag.

A business member for 37 years, Hyatt Regency Saipan continually contributes to the development of the CNMI.

Partnering with the Northern Marianas Trades Institute, the organizations worked together in developing NMTI's Hotel Hospitality and Restaurant Program under AHLEI.

"As community members it is our social responsibility to care for our people and nourish our youth so they become assertive, young professionals who will exceed our accomplishments which keeps the island thriving," said Josephine Mesta, director of Human Resources at Hyatt Saipan.

Buniag is an online student with Phoenix University, work-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Karen Buniag is a wait staff member at Miyako, Hyatt Regency Saipan's Japanese restaurant.

ing toward her undergraduate degree in accounting as well as a minor in business administration. She looks forward to pro-

fessionally growing with Hyatt Saipan and exploring other areas of the hotel to further her career in hospitality. (*Hyatt*)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/CCDF-084**

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 27, 2017
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“INCREASING ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY CARE FOR INFANTS AND TODDLER’S, A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND”

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON AFTER **JANUARY 30, 2017** AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE CHILD CARE DEVELOPEMNT FUND OFFICE BUILDING NO. 1347, ASCENCION DRIVE IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, AT **1:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 14, 2017.**

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING AND ARE DUE NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **FEBRUARY 17, 2017** AND MUST BE DIRECTED TO MS. MARIBEL S.D. LOSTE, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR VIA E-MAIL CCDF.MARIBELLOSTE@GMAIL.COM or FAX TO (670) 664-2547. RESPONDS TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH OTHER POTENTIAL PROPOSER(S).

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
 SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
 DIRECTOR, P&S

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS
HOUSING CORPORATION**

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
 Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Vice Chairman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that a Regular Board Meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, February 08, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

- PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - Call to Order
 - Swearing-in
 - Roll Call
 - Election of Officers
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes
 - Special Board Meeting – July 18, 2016 / Resumed Special Board Meeting – August 31, 2016
 - Regular Board Meeting – October 6, 2016
- PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
 - Divisional Updates
- OLD BUSINESS**
 - Garapan Annex Status Update
 - RD Settlement Update
 - Rota Land Exchange
 - Personnel Matters
 - Procurement Policy
 - Travel Policy
 - \$1 Million Funding for Loans to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota
 - Loan Delinquency Update
 - Previous Board Approved Motions
- NEW BUSINESS**
 - Section 8 Voucher Admin Plan Amendment
 - LHIC Program
 - Zen Homes, LLC Request for Additional Credits
 - Art Ridge Village Homes Request to Reduce Unit Number and Unit Mix
 - BankPacific Loan Modification
 - 2017-2018 OAP
 - Standing Committee
 - Ad Hoc Committee – Financial Committee, Personnel Committee, Housing Committee
 - Lease-to-Own Assistance Request
 - FY 2016 Audit Status
 - Management Reporting Policy
 - Board Meeting Minutes Policy
 - Dissemination of Outside Communication
 - Merit Salary Increase
- LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT**
- EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- OTHER MATTERS**
- ADJOURNMENT**

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **IGNACIO L. PEREZ**
Vice Chairman of the Board

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
 P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
 E-mail Address: cpa.admin@cpa.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: CPA-RFP-007-17**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 03, 2017
TIME: 4:00 P.M.

“PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS OF GENERATORS AT THE SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT & PORT OF SAIPAN”

PROPOSAL PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAIN AT THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING FEBRUARY 03, 2017, UPON PAYMENT OF \$150.00 AT CPA ACCOUNTING OFFICE.

A PREPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 20, 2017 AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE CPA PROCUREMENT OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, TERMINAL DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN AIRPORT.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION §40-50-1020 AND §40-50-1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
 P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
 Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 7, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

- Preliminary Matters**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes
 - December 16 and December 28, 2016 Regular Meetings
 - Correspondence
- Public Comments****
- Management Reports**
 - Executive Director
 - Update on SO1 and SO2 Projects
 - Update on EPA Grant Projects
 - Deputy Executive Director
 - Chief Financial Officer
 - Legal Counsel
- Executive Session*****
 - Consultation with Legal Counsel on Personnel and Operation Matters
- Board Reports Miscellaneous Administrative Matters/New Business**
 - Personnel Committee
 - Operation Committee
- Adjournment**

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.

** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

SNILD names committee chairs

By **JON PEREZ**
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) has already appointed the heads of the nine committees that would assist him in creating laws to benefit Saipan and the Northern Islands, officially called the Third Senatorial District.

Sablan was once again elected to head the delegation during their organizational meeting last week on Capital Hill. Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) was voted as vice chair, while former House speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) was chosen floor leader.

First-time lawmakers Reps. Donald C. Barcinas and Francisco C. Aguon, both Saipan Republicans, will be heading the delegation's committees on Commerce and Education while Rep. Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan), who is also the House of Representatives' vice speaker, is the Health & Welfare chief and Rep. Joseph Lee-pan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan) is the Tourism Committee chair.

Saipan GOP Reps. Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Angel A. Demapan, Alice S. Igitol, and Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., will each be leading the same committees they have in the House this 20th Legislature.

Blanco got the Judiciary and Governmental Operations portfolio, while Dela Cruz got the Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications Committee. Transportation is

not part of the House committee of the former vice speaker since it was created separately and given to Barcinas.

Demapan became the delegation's Ways and Means chair, Igitol the Natural Resources chief, and Sablan the Federal and Foreign Affairs presiding officer.

Other House committees

The committee chairs of Commerce and Tourism, and Natural Resources also completed their membership, along with Rules Ad Hoc.

Blanco acts as Guerrero's vice chair in Commerce and Tourism with Igitol, Reps. Edwin P. Aldan (R-Tinian), Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan), and Vinson F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), and House floor leader Glenn L. Maratita (R-Rota) as members.

Igitol is the Natural Resources committee chair, while Aldan is her vice chair. Aguon, Barcinas, and Reps. Jose I. Itibus (R-Saipan) and Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) will be joining them as members.

The other committee chairmen in the House are Sablan (Federal and Foreign Affairs), Demapan (Ways and Means), Itibus (Health and Welfare), Blanco (Judiciary and Governmental Operations), Dela Cruz (Public Utilities and Communications), Aguon (Social and Human Services), Barcinas (Transportation), Guerrero (Commerce and Tourism), Aldan (Education), and Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Gaming).

Business

How Trump’s immigration order could hurt the US economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump’s executive order suspending immigration from seven majority-Muslim countries could slow the U.S. economy by hampering two of the nation’s top export industries: Tourism and higher education.

Trump’s immigration order followed his order to build a wall along the border with Mexico and his vow to rip up NAFTA. Combined, those moves could discourage visitors and students from many countries—not just the seven covered by the order—economists say.

They also reflect Trump’s shift toward an “America First” approach and away from the pro-globalization policies embraced by his predecessors. His combative trade stance potentially could open the door for China and other economic powers to fill a void.

“Broad-brush policies like this people barrier impede growth and certainly do not accelerate it,” David Kotok, chief investment officer at Cumberland Advisors, wrote in an email. “Trump has now set back the positive elements of global exchange in both goods and services.”

Foreign tourists provide critical support to the U.S. economy. In 2015, they spent roughly \$199 billion on items ranging from hotel rooms and restaurant meals to plane tickets and amusement parks. That spending counts as exports. Travel and tourism made up nearly 9 percent of U.S. exports that year.

Some economists say they worry that Trump’s order could create an echo of the post-9/11 period, when travel to the United States plunged, in part because of much tighter security. In the 10 years that followed—a period the travel industry recalls ruefully as the “lost decade”—the U.S. share of overseas travel fell by nearly one-third, according to the Council on Foreign Relations. That cost the U.S. economy \$500 billion.

“The message got around the world that the United States was an unfriendly country to visit—that it’s a big hassle to visit there,” said Edward Alden, a senior fellow at the Council and author of



In this Saturday, Jan. 25, 2017, file photo, Mansour Kenereh, center, reunites with family members in the international arrivals lobby at Hartsfield- Jackson Atlanta International Airport, in Atlanta.

“The Closing of the American Border,” a book about U.S. security after 9/11.

Given the disruptions at U.S. airports caused by Trump’s immigration order, which were widely covered by television news around the world, “it’s that story all over again,” Alden said.

Many high-tech companies have also opposed Trump’s order because they say it blunts their competitive edge in recruiting high-skilled talent.

“Apple would not exist without immigration,” the company’s CEO, Tim Cook, said this week. The biological father of Apple’s founder, Steve Jobs, was an immigrant from Syria.

When foreign students attend an American college or university and pay tuition, that spending also counts as a U.S. export. Education spending from overseas reached roughly \$36 billion in 2015—up nearly 50 percent from three years earlier, according to Commerce Department data.

Proceeds from tourism and education help narrow the nation’s trade deficit, a frequent target of Trump’s criticism on the campaign trail. Travel and tourism exports exceed overseas sales of autos and auto parts, which totaled \$152 billion in 2015. Agricultural ex-

ports amounted to \$137 billion.

Yet Trump’s orders “couldn’t happen at a worse time,” said Adam Sacks, president of Tourism Economics. Even before Trump’s executive orders, a strong dollar had made it costlier for foreign travelers to visit the United States.

And weaker economies in many countries, from China to European nations, have begun to slow the flow of tourists to the United States. Sacks estimates that travel and tourism spending barely grew last year from 2015’s record level.

“The P.R. optics on this are

terrible,” Sacks said.

Trump’s immigration order and belligerent rhetoric about a wall along the Mexican border add up to “a series of immigration and trade policies that are all conveying to the world that we’re not interested in visitors coming to the U.S.,”

Congressional Republicans move to dismantle Obama rules

WASHINGTON (AP)—Moving to dismantle former President Barack Obama’s legacy on the environment and other issues, House Republicans approved a measure Wednesday that scuttles a regulation aimed at preventing coal mining debris from being dumped into nearby streams.

Lawmakers also voted to rescind a separate rule requiring companies to disclose payments made to foreign governments relating to mining and drilling.

Republicans said the votes were first in a series of actions to reverse years of what they see as excessive government regulation during Obama’s presidency. Rules on fracking, guns and federal contracting also are in the cross-hairs as the GOP moves to void a host of regulations finalized during Obama’s last

months in office.

“Make no mistake about it, this Obama administration rule is not designed to protect streams. Instead, it was an effort to regulate the coal mining industry right out of business,” said Rep. Bill Johnson, R-Ohio, who sponsored the disapproval measure on the stream protection rule.

The House approved the measure, 228-194. Nine Republicans voted against repeal, while four Democrats supported it.

Lawmakers approved the financial disclosure measure, 235-187.

The rule, which grew out of the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial oversight law, was intended to promote transparency so citizens in some of the world’s most impoverished countries can hold their governments accountable for

the wealth generated through mining and drilling.

Republicans said the regulation placed an unfair burden on U.S. companies by requiring them to hand over key details of how they bid and compete while many foreign competitors are under no obligation to do the same. The GOP said the cost of compliance is estimated at \$590 million a year—money that could be used to help produce more oil, gas and mineral resources.

Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., said the only reason to repeal the disclosure rule was “to help corrupt governments steal money from their people.”

Republicans voted to repeal the Obama-era rules using the Congressional Review Act, an obscure oversight tool that could become more familiar in the coming weeks as Congress uses it to overturn regu-

lations federal agencies issued late in Obama’s presidency.

The Senate took up the stream rule late Wednesday, with a final vote on repeal expected Thursday.

The review law hastens the process for bringing legislation to the floor and removes the hurdle of a 60-vote threshold in the Senate. Regulations imposed since June 13 can be invalidated on a simple majority vote of both GOP-led chambers and the president’s signature.

What’s more, the law prevents the executive branch from imposing substantially similar regulations in the future.

It is that aspect of the law that frightens environmental groups that have fought for years for the coal-mining rule and another rule to restrict energy companies from burning off natural gas during drilling operations on public lands.

STOCK

PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

19,890.94

+26.85

0.14%

↑

S&P

2,279.55

+0.68

0.03%

↑

NASDAQ

5,642.65

+27.86

0.50%

↑

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar

1.3079

British Pound

0.7891

Canadian Dollar

1.3007

Chinese Yuan

6.8767

Euro

0.9265

Hong Kong Dollar

7.7593

Indian Rupee

67.429

Japanese Yen

112.58

Malaysian Ringgit

4.4345

New Zealand Dollar

1.3696

Philippine Peso

49.73

Russian Ruble

60.003

Singapore Dollar

1.4101

South Korean Won

1145.8

Swiss Franc

0.9906

Taiwan Dollar

31.093

Thailand Baht

35.07

Nation

Trump to Senate: Scrap rules if needed to confirm Gorsuch

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump urged the Senate’s Republican leader on Wednesday to resort to the “nuclear option” of scrapping longstanding chamber rules if needed to confirm Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch, an aggressive opening to what’s shaping up as a ferocious clash over the future of the high court.

At the White House a day after nominating Gorsuch, Trump endorsed a scenario that would involve majority Republicans unilaterally changing Senate rules over the objections of the Democratic minority.

It could come into play if Democrats try to block Gorsuch’s confirmation with a filibuster, as the liberal base is demanding, and would allow the GOP to confirm Gorsuch with a simple majority instead of the 60 votes now needed.

Addressing GOP Senate leader Mitch McConnell from the White House, Trump said, “If we end up with that gridlock I would say, ‘If you can, Mitch, go nuclear.’” He said of Gorsuch that it “would be a absolute shame if a man of this quality was caught up in the web.”

Trump made his comments as Gorsuch traversed Capitol Hill, escorted by Vice President Mike Pence and winning extravagant praise from Republican senators.

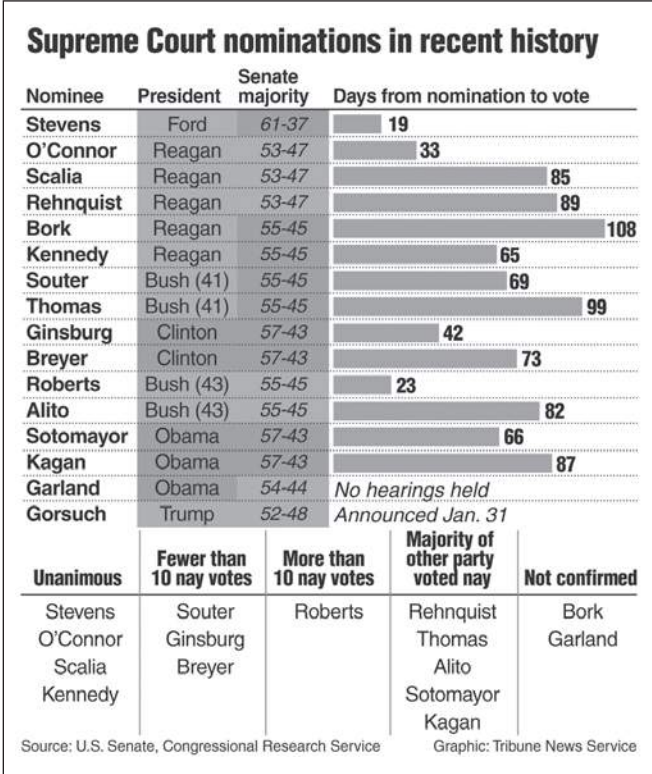
Democratic divisions were

on display. Minority Leader Chuck Schumer faced intense opposition from base voters to Trump’s nominee, while political risks confronted a half-dozen Democratic senators representing red states who are up for re-election next year and may feel pressure to support Gorsuch.

“The president made an outstanding appointment; we’re all thrilled and looking forward to getting the confirmation process started,” McConnell said as he stood with a smiling Gorsuch in the senator’s ceremonial office in the Capitol.

McConnell has not said whether he might invoke the nuclear option if minority Democrats block Gorsuch’s confirmation, but the Senate leader has said repeatedly that, one way or another, Gorsuch will be confirmed. He reiterated that Wednesday evening in an interview on WHAS radio in Kentucky, saying: “Well I appreciate the president’s advice. What I would say to him is what I would say to you: We’re going to get this nominee confirmed and this is the beginning of a lengthy process.”

Democrats are still smarting over the treatment of Judge Merrick Garland, former President Barack Obama’s nominee to the court after the death of Justice Antonin Scalia a year ago. McConnell never allowed even a hearing on Gar-



land over 10 months, asserting that the decision was up to the next president.

Now some on the left are demanding payback.

“This is a stolen seat being filled by an illegitimate and extreme nominee, and I will do everything in my power to stand up against this assault on the court,” said Sen. Jeff Merkley of Oregon.

Schumer reiterated Wednesday that Democrats would insist on a 60-vote threshold for Gorsuch in the 100-member Senate, “not because they did it to us or we did it to them, but because

60 votes produces a mainstream candidate.” But as Schumer and other Democrats made clear, for many the fight was less about the mild-mannered 49-year-old appeals court judge than about Trump himself.

Schumer said that “this Supreme Court will be tried in ways that few courts have been tested since the earliest days of the Republic.” Schumer had been invited to meet with Gorsuch on Wednesday but declined so he could learn more about the nominee’s record first.

The rules change for Su-

preme Court nominees would be a momentous departure for the Senate, which traditionally operates day-to-day via deliberation and bipartisan consent.

There is concern by some that it could begin to unravel Senate traditions at a hyper-partisan moment in politics and perhaps end up in the complete elimination of the filibuster—resulting in an entirely different Senate from the one that’s existed for decades.

Gorsuch is a Denver-based judge on the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the Ivy League-educated son of a former Reagan administration official. His conservative legal philosophy is seen as similar to that of Scalia. Gorsuch would restore the court to the conservative tilt it held with Scalia on the bench, but Trump’s choice “makes it very difficult for Democrats to contest this nomination because he is so qualified,” said Melissa Murray, interim dean of the University of California at Berkeley law school.

Republicans were quick to highlight the political risks to Democrats in conservative-leaning states. There are 23 Senate Democrats up for elec-

tion next year, 10 in states Trump won.

“The minority needs to decide whether or not they want to go to states like North Dakota and Montana and Missouri and Indiana and West Virginia where Mr. Trump won by 17 points or more and talk to the real people there and say ‘we’re going to stop what was clearly your will,’” said GOP Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina.

One of those senators, Democrat Joe Manchin of West Virginia, met with Gorsuch late Wednesday, telling reporters with the judge at his side: “What I look for in any jurist, especially a jurist at this level, is someone who follows the law.” Manchin said character and quality should count, and “politics shouldn’t intervene with that.”

For Democrats, there was debate about whether Gorsuch’s nomination to replace the like-minded Scalia was the right time to launch an all-out fight over the court. Or, would Democrats be better off waiting to wage that battle for another possible high court opening during Trump’s presidency, one that could shift the court markedly to the right.

House Dems want probe of intelligence chief’s ties to Russia

WASHINGTON (AP)—Top House Democrats called Wednesday for an investigation of President Donald Trump’s national security adviser over his ties to a Russian propaganda outlet.

They want the Pentagon to investigate whether Michael Flynn violated the Constitution by accepting payments from a government-controlled TV station in Russia. Flynn is a retired Army lieutenant general and intelligence officer.

Flynn traveled in 2015 to Moscow, where he joined Russian President Vladimir Putin and other Russian officials in a celebration of the RT network.

Flynn later explained he had been paid for taking part in the event, but brushed aside concerns that he was aiding a Russian propaganda effort.

The top Democrats from six House Committees sent a letter to the Pentagon Wednesday seeking the investigation.

“It remains unclear how much Gen. Flynn was paid for his dinner with Vladimir Putin, whether he received additional payments from Russian or other foreign

sources on separate occasions, or whether he sought the approval of the Department of Defense or Congress to accept any of these payments,” the Democrats wrote.

Laura Seal, a Pentagon spokeswoman, declined to comment to The Associated Press. She said the Pentagon would respond to the members of Congress.

The Emoluments Clause of the Constitution prohibits federal officeholders from accepting gifts from foreign governments. The Defense Department warns that the prohibition applies to both active-duty and retired military.

In his position as national security adviser, Flynn did not need to be confirmed by the Senate. That means he was not subjected to the same kind of public scrutiny as Trump’s cabinet picks.

The Democratic House members who sent the letter requesting the investigation were Reps. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, Adam Smith of Washington, John Conyers Jr. of Michigan, Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, Adam Schiff of California and Eliot Engel of New York.

Hostage-takers at Delaware prison cite treatment, Trump

SMYRNA, Del. (AP)—Inmates at a Delaware prison took four corrections department workers hostage Wednesday, a move the inmates told a local newspaper was due to concerns about their treatment and the leadership of the United States.

The hostage situation drew dozens of officers and law enforcement vehicles to the James T. Vaughn Correctional Center in Smyrna and prompted a statewide lockdown of all prisons. One hostage was released Wednesday afternoon and another was released hours later, leaving authorities negotiating into the evening for the last two being held.

A preliminary investigation suggests the disturbance began about 10:30 a.m. when a correctional officer inside Building C, which houses over 100 inmates, radioed for immediate assistance, Delaware State Police spokesman Sgt. Richard Bratz said. Other officers responded to help, and the employees were taken hostage, he said.

Bratz initially said five em-

ployees were taken hostage, but authorities at a later news conference said the number had been revised to four after one person thought to be among the hostages was found in another part of the prison.

Robert Coupe, secretary of the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security, said 27 inmates also had left the building over the course of the evening.

Authorities don’t know “the dynamics of the takeover” or whether those inmates had been held against their will, Coupe said.

One of the freed employees was taken to a hospital for injuries that were not life-threatening, authorities said. The condition of the second wasn’t immediately available.

Earlier in the day, inmates reached out to The News Journal in Wilmington in two phone calls to explain their actions and make demands. Prisoners funneled the calls to the paper with the help of one inmate’s fiancée and another person’s mother. The mother told the paper her son was

among the hostages.

In that call, an inmate said their reasons “for doing what we’re doing” included “Donald Trump. Everything that he did. All the things that he’s doing now. We know that the institution is going to change for the worse.”

That caller said education for prisoners was the inmates’ priority. They also said they want effective rehabilitation for all prisoners and information about how money is allocated to prisons.

Coupe said authorities had been communicating with the hostage-takers via radio. He also noted that inmates in Building C have access to television and could be watching the news conference live.

“We’d like to tell them we want to resolve this peacefully,” he said.

Coupe declined to comment when asked about the phone calls to the News Journal, but said a dialogue about issues at the prison could happen later.

“Once this matter is resolved safely, then that will be the time to talk if the inmates want to talk

about conditions, privileges, those types of things,” he said.

Delaware Gov. John Carney spoke briefly, saying he had talked with the hostages’ families.

“As you can imagine, it’s been very difficult for them as well,” the new Democratic governor said.

According to the department’s website, the prison is Delaware’s largest correctional facility for men, with about 2,500 inmates. It houses minimum, medium, and maximum security inmates, and also houses Kent County detainees awaiting trial.

It employs 1,500 corrections officers, according to Bruce Rogers, counsel for the Correctional Officers Association of Delaware.

In 2004, an inmate there raped a counselor and took her hostage for nearly seven hours at the Smyrna prison, according to an Associated Press report at the time. A department sharpshooter later shot and killed 45-year-old Scott Miller, according to the report, ending the standoff.

Asia

Australian PM, Trump offer mixed messages on refugee deal

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's prime minister insisted Thursday that a deal struck with the Obama administration that would allow mostly Muslim refugees rejected by Australia to be resettled in the United States was still on, despite President Donald Trump dubbing the agreement "dumb" and vowing to review it.

The conflicting messages came hours after The Washington Post published a story detailing a tense exchange between Trump and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull during their first telephone call as national leaders.

The newspaper reported that during the call, an angry Trump dubbed the agreement "the worst deal ever" and accused Turnbull of seeking to export the "next Boston bombers"—a reference to Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, U.S. citizens born in Kyrgyzstan, who set off two bombs at the 2013 Boston marathon.

Turnbull declined to comment on the report, which also said Trump abruptly ended the expected hour-long conversation after 25 minutes as the Australian attempted to steer the conversation to other topics.

"It's better that these



AP
In this Sept. 21, 2001, file photo, men shave, brush their teeth and prepare for the day at a refugee camp on the Island of Nauru.

things—these conversations—are conducted candidly, frankly, privately," Turnbull told reporters. Later, however, he denied during an interview with Sky News that Trump had hung up on him, saying the conversation had ended "courteously."

Turnbull told reporters the

strength of the relationship between the two nations was evident in that Trump had agreed to honor the deal to resettle refugees from among around 1,600 asylum seekers, most of whom are on island camps on the Pacific nations of Nauru and Papua New Guinea. Australia has refused to ac-

cept them and instead pays for them to be housed on the impoverished islands.

"I can assure you the relationship is very strong," Turnbull said. "The fact we received the assurance that we did, the fact that it was confirmed, the very extensive engagement we have with the

new administration underlines the closeness of the alliance. But as Australians know me very well: I stand up for Australia in every forum—public or private."

Yet shortly after Turnbull made those comments to reporters, Trump took to Twitter to slam the deal.

"Do you believe it? The Obama Administration agreed to take thousands of illegal immigrants from Australia. Why?" Trump tweeted. "I will study this dumb deal!"

Australians—accustomed to the friendly relationship they have long enjoyed with the U.S.—were transfixed by

the drama. The Washington Post story shot to the top of the nation's trending topics on Twitter, and was plastered across the top of Australia's major news sites.

The country's news networks launched running commentaries on it, debating how Turnbull should respond and what the spat meant for the future of the longtime allies' relationship.

Trump, who a day before the conversation with Turnbull had signed an executive order suspending the admission of refugees, complained during the call that he was "going to get killed" politically by the deal, the newspaper reported, citing anonymous officials.

"I don't want these people," Trump reportedly said. Trump also told Turnbull that he had spoken to four world leaders that day and that: "This is the worst call by far."

Trump told Turnbull that it was "my intention" to honor the agreement, a phrase designed to leave the president wriggle room to back out of the deal, the newspaper reported.

There have been mixed messages from Washington all week on the state of the agreement.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer confirmed on Wednesday that Trump had agreed to honor the deal.

Rights group says Philippine killings are extrajudicial

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Most of the thousands of killings of poor suspected drug offenders during Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's crackdown appear to be extrajudicial executions and may constitute crimes against humanity, Amnesty International said Wednesday.

The London-based human rights group urged Duterte's government to adopt an approach that respects human rights in its fight against drugs and crime, and called on the police and judiciary to prosecute officers involved in unlawful killings.

After investigating the deaths of 59 people, the group said it concluded "the vast majority of these killings appear to have been extrajudicial executions."

It said it interviewed 110 witnesses, relatives of slain suspects, drug users, police officers and even hired killers from November to December.

The group said it is "deeply concerned that the deliberate and widespread killings of alleged drug offenders, which appear to be systematic, planned and organized by the authorities, may constitute crimes against humanity."

Duterte's spokesman, Ernie Abella, acknowledged "extrajudicial deaths" have occurred but said they were not state-sanctioned and did not elaborate further. He cited a Senate committee finding that the government has no policy condoning unlawful killings and that the anti-drug campaign was being carried out "within legal processes."

Duterte has defended his crackdown and says he and his top police officials have authorized law enforcers to open fire only when threatened by suspects.

Police say the deaths of at least 35 policemen and three soldiers prove that suspects have fought back during raids.

More than 7,000 suspected drug sellers or users have been killed since Duterte took office in June, and many were killed in clashes with police. The deaths have alarmed Western governments, including the United States and the European Union.

Amnesty International noted that the deaths have averaged 34 a day.

It said it found in several cases it investigated that "witnesses described alleged drug

offenders yelling they would surrender, at times while on their knees or in another compliant position. They were still gunned down."

It said police officers often appear to have planted evidence

and falsified incident reports.

It cited a police officer in Manila as saying that police and hired killers profit from the killings, with some law enforcers getting paid by funeral parlors for each body brought in.

Rohingya worry Bangladesh may move them to low-lying island

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Rohingya Muslims in Bangladesh are worried about a government proposal to relocate them to a low-lying island deemed not ready for people to live there.

The proposal briefly posted on a government website last week said a committee including representatives of the border guards and other agencies would prepare a list of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims to be relocated to the island of Thengar Char in southeastern Bangladesh. The Cabinet Division official who signed the circular admitted it was removed from the website but refused to comment further.

The low-lying island is in the estuary of the River Meghna and emerged from the sea only eight years ago.

It is difficult to reach without boats and becomes flooded during any storm that causes a tidal surge. Thengar Char is about 30 kilometers (19 miles) east of the more-populated Hatiya island.

The government circular made no mention of what would be done to prepare the island for habitation or any potential timing.

Some 300,000 Rohingya Muslims have lived in Bangladesh for decades after fleeing there from neighboring Myanmar in the face of persecution by its military and majority Buddhists. An additional 66,000 Rohingya have arrived in Bangladesh since October, fleeing violent retaliation after the killings of nine Myanmar border police.

About 33,000 of them live in two official camps in the

southern coastal district of Cox's Bazar.

Abu Bakar Siddique, president of the unregistered Rohingya at Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that authorities have never discussed the prospect of relocation with them officially but they were aware of it from media reports.

"Frankly we want to go back to Myanmar if our rights are ensured. If that does not happen soon, we have no other way but to follow Bangladesh government's order. We have no other choices. We are worried," he said by phone from the camp.

Myanmar said it had no opinion on Bangladesh's relocation proposal because it didn't know if the people affected were from Myanmar. Historically, Myanmar's government

has considered the Rohingya in that country to be Bangladeshi immigrants and denies most of them citizenship.

"They don't need our opinion about whatever they do with these people in their country. It has nothing to do with our country," Aye Aye Soe, deputy director of the Myanmar Foreign Ministry political department, told The Associated Press. "Maybe they don't consult with us because these people are not from Myanmar. Without verifying whether these people are from Myanmar or not, we cannot say anything."

Mohammed Nur, secretary of the camp's Rohingya, said they were "a bit worried" but they would have to discuss the issue with others before responding to any proposal by the government.

World

US puts Iran 'on notice' after missile test, won't elaborate

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House issued a cryptic warning Wednesday that the U.S. will act against Iran unless it stops testing ballistic missiles and supporting Houthi rebels in Yemen, but declined to say what retaliatory actions the U.S. would pursue.

Michael Flynn, President Donald Trump's national security adviser, forcefully denounced Iran's behavior in his first public remarks since Trump took office. He accused Iran of threatening U.S. allies and spreading instability throughout the Middle East while faulting the Obama administration for doing too little to stop the Islamic Republic.

"As of today, we are officially putting Iran on notice," Flynn said from the White House podium.

On notice for what, Flynn didn't say. Senior Trump administration officials said they were actively considering a "range of options" including economic measures and increased support for Iran's regional adversaries. The officials, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity, declined repeatedly to say whether military action was



being considered.

Later Wednesday, Trump tweeted: "Iran is rapidly taking over more and more of Iraq even after the U.S. has squandered three trillion dollars there. Obvious long ago!"

The warning was an early manifestation of Trump's

promise of a tougher American approach to Iran. Yet administration officials emphasized that their allegations were unrelated to Iran's obligations under the Iran nuclear deal that President Barack Obama and world leaders negotiated. Though Flynn noted Trump has criticized that deal, officials declined to say whether Trump planned to follow through on his campaign pledge to renegotiate it.

"The Obama administration failed to respond adequately to Tehran's malign actions - including weapons transfers, support for terrorism and other

violations of international norms," Flynn said.

The White House also faulted Iran for backing Houthi rebels in Yemen who on Tuesday claimed a successful missile strike against a warship belonging to a Saudi-led coalition fighting to reinstall Yemen's internationally recognized government. The media arm of the Shiite rebels said the vessel was believed to belong to the Saudi Arabian navy.

Administration officials said Iran was providing key support by arming, training and financing the rebels, with a goal of leveraging its relationship with

the Houthis to "build a long-term presence in Yemen."

The White House said the goal in putting Iran "on notice" was to signal to Tehran that it needed to rethink its behavior. Flynn said Iran specifically violated the U.N.'s ban on "activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology."

Iran's Defense Minister Gen. Hossein Dehghan confirmed Wednesday that Iran conducted a missile test, but did not say when the test was carried out or specify the

AP
National Security Adviser Michael Flynn speaks during the daily news briefing at the White House, in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017. Flynn said the administration is putting Iran "on notice" after it tested a ballistic missile.

type of missile. He insisted it wasn't a violation of U.N. resolutions.

The U.S. said the test was of a medium-range ballistic missile. It ended with a "failed" re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere, said a U.S. defense official, who wasn't authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Reports of the test emerged after Trump signed an executive order last week temporarily suspending immigration from Iran and six other majority-Muslim countries.

On one point, the U.S. and Iran agree: The test didn't violate the nuclear deal itself.

Ballistic missile testing wasn't explicitly included in the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and six world powers. But as part of the final negotiations, Iran agreed to an eight-year extension of a U.N. ban on ballistic missile development. The U.N. Security Council later endorsed the agreement, calling on Iran not to carry out such tests. But Iran has flouted the prohibition regularly in the past year-and-a-half, drawing sanctions from the U.S. but also diplomatic cover from Russia.

Islamic State turns to drones to direct suicide car bombers

MOSUL, Iraq (AP)—Faced with a diminishing number of fighters, the Islamic State group is relying on retrofitted commercial drones to guide suicide car bombers to their targets and to launch small-scale airstrikes on Iraqi forces.

The extremist group is spending freely on drone technology as it faces pressure from coalition forces, hacking store-bought machines, applying rigorous testing protocols and mimicking tactics used by U.S. unmanned aircraft.

In all, a half-dozen storehouses IS used to make and modify drones have been found recently in Mosul, Iraqi military officials said.

The Associated Press this week visited the largest drone workshop uncovered so far, a warehouse in the Shura neighborhood. Scattered among stacks of paper were pieces of Styrofoam wings, fins and radio transmitters piled in the corners of the factory.

Most of the completed drones were destroyed by IS fighters as they retreated, Iraqi officers at the warehouse said. Spreadsheets the fighters left behind showed purchases totaling thousands of dollars a month for drone equipment.

One receipt dated a few months before the operation to reclaim Mosul began recorded the purchase of wires, silicon, electrical plugs, cables, rotors and GoPro cameras. Handwritten notes instructed IS drone operators to write daily "mission reports" and monthly reports "about the challenges and difficulties you face as well."

All the accounts were headed "board of development and military manufacturing," some sub-headed "air observation division."

A cache of documents also obtained this month in a smaller makeshift factory by a researcher in Mosul indicates that the group is testing small drones—normally used as playthings—with deadly intent.

The researcher, Vera Mironova, said the drone paperwork she discovered signals a program for having machines make up for a shortage in manpower. The documents included part lists in English and Arabic. One file, marked "Tool Kit," contained a checklist of several dozen essentials: GoPro and chargers; battery cable; laptop; explosives; and devices made up Items 1-5.

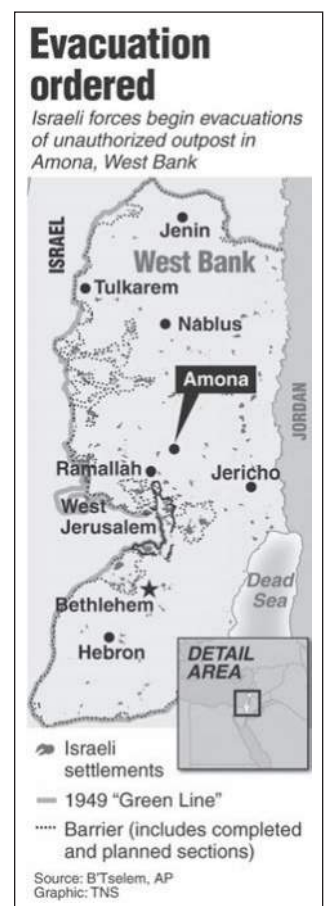
Israel evacuates West Bank outpost amid new settlement binge

AMONA, West Bank (AP)—Israeli forces uprooted this West Bank outpost on Wednesday, removing residents and hundreds of their supporters in sometimes violent clashes as they dismantled a community that has become a symbol of Jewish settler defiance.

The evacuation, which followed years of legal battles, came amid a flurry of bold new settlement moves by Israel's government, which has been buoyed by the election of President Donald Trump.

Thousands of police officers carried out the removal, squaring off against hundreds of protesters, many of them young religious activists who flocked to the wind-swept hilltop to show their solidarity with residents.

Planting themselves inside trailer homes and the community's synagogue, the protesters defied police, who carried some away. Protesters chained themselves to heavy objects or linked arms to form a wall



against police, chanting "Jews don't expel Jews!" Dozens of residents reluctantly left their homes without resistance, young children in tow.

"This is my home. I want to stay here. It is my right to stay here," resident Tamar Nizri told Channel 2 TV news. "This is expulsion, destruction, an injustice and a crime. The most basic truth is that the Land of Israel belongs to the people of Israel," including the West Bank, she said.

With some 250 residents, Amona is the largest of about 100 unauthorized outposts erected in the West Bank without formal permission but generally with tacit support from the Israeli government. It was the scene of violent clashes between settlers and security forces during a partial demolition exactly 11 years ago, on Feb. 1, 2006.

Those homes were found to be built on private Palestinian land. Israel's Supreme Court

later ruled in 2014 that the entire outpost was built on private Palestinian land and must be demolished, setting Feb. 8 as the final deadline after repeated delays.

In an apparent attempt to temper settler anger over the evacuation, Israel approved thousands of new settler homes a day before the outpost's removal, signaling a ramping up of settlement construction under President Trump, who has indicated he will be more accepting of Israeli settlement policies. The settler movement is a potent political force in Israel, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's nationalist coalition government is dominated by settlers and their allies.

In contrast to his predecessors, Trump has voiced no objections to Israel's latest settlement binge. Amona residents and their supporters had hoped Trump and his softer approach might open a door for the outpost to remain on the hilltop, to no avail.

Science & Technology

Why Facebook keeps pushing you to go 'live' with video

NEW YORK (AP)—From billboards to TV ads to endless notifications, Facebook is furiously promoting its live video feature as it tries to get more users to shoot and watch such videos.

But will it be a big business for the social network? The prospects for advertisers are uncertain, and even when users do “go live”—broadcast-

ing their toddler's first steps to family or showing footage from protests around the world, for instance—their friends often don't see it until after the fact, just like any other recorded video.

So why all the big fuss?

FISHING FOR USERS IN THE LIVE STREAM

Some analysts believe it's just

another in Facebook's ongoing efforts to keep people attached to its service as long as possible. “It's a usage thing—keeping them engaged, keeping them on Facebook, giving them an avenue to share,” says eMarketer analyst Debra Aho Williamson. “As long as Facebook can be successful with that, it can show ads to them.”

As is its custom, the com-

pany is first pushing the service to as many of its 1.8 billion users as possible. Users get special notifications when their friends go live, and ads prompting them to do the same have been prevalent in the last few weeks.

But making money off live streams isn't easy, starting with the fact that they offer few opportunities to display video ads. But that's OK, Williamson says, arguing that now is the time for marketers to experiment with the feature.

Some are already doing just that—not by advertising on other live broadcasts, but by streaming themselves. General Motors, for example, was the first automaker to livestream on Facebook, rolling out its Chevy Bolt EV at the 2016 Consumer Electronics Show.

LIVE FROM EVERYWHERE

Mobile video, especially live video, is already transforming how we experience the world online, whether that means puppies and kittens or witnessing crime, social unrest and other world events. We can stream official channels

and news, as well as individual people's perspectives in a way that was not possible just a few years ago.

Last October, Facebook started an ad campaign featuring real users doing weird, quirky but generally upbeat stuff live with the goal of introducing more, possibly reluctant users to the feature. Think: pile of teddy bears, girl singing with a guitar, someone recording lightning in the distance.

While the company isn't disclosing data on how many users have gone live or watched a live video, anecdotally at least it seems to be catching on—somewhat. The company says people comment more than 10 times more on live videos than on regular ones, and that the number of people broadcasting live at any given minute has grown by fourfold since last May. Facebook gave regular users the ability to create live videos in April.

News outlets live streamed the presidential debates, as well as election night and Donald Trump's inauguration and Tuesday's Supreme Court nomination. Users, meanwhile, are broadcasting from sports events, protests and

their living rooms.

Live video provides “an immediate, synchronous conversation experience,” says Forrester Research analyst Melissa Parrish. Tools that increase the “immediacy of interaction,” such as messaging platforms, are growing more and more popular.

At the same time, live videos that have gotten outside attention—those showing police shootings, for instance—are not exactly good PR for the company. While the vast majority of live streams don't involve violence or crime, Williamson says the negative connotations are “definitely a red flag and could cause advertisers to take a second look on whether it makes sense for them.”

LESS IS MORE?

Facebook warned last year that “ad load”—that is, the number of ads it can push in front of users without clogging up their feeds—is unlikely to keep increasing. After all, the company can't keep endlessly shoving more advertisements before users without souring them on the experience. To maintain growth, Facebook needs higher-priced ad products.

TECH BYTES

Self-driving car prototypes need less human help, data show

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Self-driving car prototypes appear to be getting better at negotiating California streets and highways without a human backup driver intervening, according to data made public Wednesday by California transportation regulators. The data reflect safety-related incidents reported by 11 companies that have been testing more than 100 vehicles on public roads, primarily in the Silicon Valley neighborhoods where the technology has grown up.

The reports were made to California's Department of Motor Vehicles, which posted them online. The documents catalog the number of times from December 2015 through the end of November that humans took over control from a car's software for safety reasons.

Apple reversed its iPhone slump. But what's next?

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Apple has snapped out of the first sales slump in the iPhone's decade-long history, although the modest upturn doesn't mean that it has broken out of its innovation funk. If anything,

the numbers Apple released Tuesday highlight the company's growing dependence on the iPhone, whose sales tower above Apple's other current offerings. The company hasn't managed to come up with another breakthrough product since its chief visionary, Steve Jobs, died in 2011. Meanwhile, Apple's rivals have been rolling out new products in other promising fields such as augmented reality, virtual reality and artificial intelligence. Apple currently trails in those areas, although many analysts believe the company may try to catch up with products featuring those trendy technologies later this year.

TECH Q&A How to choose between a tablet and a laptop

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: My husband and I share an iPad, and he also has a laptop that belongs to his employer. Once he retires, I'd like for both of us to have a computer, but I don't know whether to buy another iPad tablet or a laptop. Typically, we search the web for information, check Craigslist, pay bills, do email and watch a few movies. What should I buy?—Julie Carroll, Edina, Minn.

A: If you send brief emails, a tablet is ideal. If you write longer ones, a laptop will serve you better. Why? Typing on a tablet is slow and often not very accurate because of on-screen keyboard is small. And keyboard accessories for a tablet aren't as easy to use as a laptop keyboard.

Full-featured tablets such as the iPad are more expensive than laptops. A 9.7-inch (diagonal screen measurement) iPad Pro with a Wi-Fi-only internet connection and 256 gigabytes of flash memory costs \$800. A basic Acer Windows 10 laptop with a 15.6-inch screen, Wi-Fi or plug-in internet connection and a one terabyte hard drive

(four times as much storage as the iPad) costs about \$300. While you can supplement a tablet's storage by storing some of your data online (“in the cloud”), it will cost you a monthly fee to store sizable amounts of data.

On the other hand, a tablet is smaller and its battery lasts longer than a laptop.

Sometimes it's a tossup. There are good web browsing and photo-editing programs for both tablets and laptops, so it's a matter of whether you would rather use a touch screen or a mouse.

Q: I bought a laptop PC on which I use the same Outlook email program and email account as I do on my desktop PC. But on the laptop, my new email gets deleted within about five minutes of arriving. Neither a repair shop nor Comcast, my internet service provider, has been able to fix it. What should I do?—Dave Backlund, Plymouth, Minn.

A: Your Outlook program (most likely Outlook 2016 on a new PC) needs to be adjusted.

One possible fix is to change the “ignore” command, which tells Outlook that you're not interested in a particular email. If you ignore

an email, Outlook deletes it and all subsequent back-and-forth replies to it (called an email “thread.”) To keep this from happening, and perhaps retrieve some lost emails, see tinyurl.com/h6p6w7q.

Another possibility is that you have a version of Outlook 2016 (version 16.0.6568.2025) that contains a flaw. If so, Microsoft recommends that you download a newer version of the program.

To do that, start any Office program, click File, then click “Office Account” or “Account.” If the version of Office that's shown is not 16.0.6568.2036 or later, click “update now.”

Alternatively, there's a workaround for the flaw that will allow you to keep using your present Outlook 2016 program.

Instead of downloading email from the Comcast server using a technology called POP3 (Post Office Protocol), you can switch to IMAP (internet Message Access Protocol.)

If you want to understand the difference between the two, see tinyurl.com/ztmxsk2. If you just want to make the conversion from POP3 to IMAP, see tinyurl.com/h37bekf and scroll down to the section called “workaround.”



Science Matters

Concussion from a head impact

How long to sit on the bench before returning to the field?

How long before it's safe to play?

New research found that the level of a brain protein called “tau” in an athlete's blood may serve as an indicator of when it is safe to return to play following a sport-related concussion.

The brain after an injury

- 1 Impact damages membranes and nerve cells in the brain
- 2 Playing again before brain heals increases risk of long-term physical and mental problems
- 3 Risk is even worse if the athlete suffers another concussion

The decision to play

Physicians and trainers currently make decision:

- By asking the athlete about his or her symptoms
- By giving standard memory and attention tests

The test for tau

Study examined college soccer, football, basketball, hockey and lacrosse players

The ELISA test – often used to test for pregnancy or diseases – was used to measure tau protein in their blood after a concussion

Elevated tau level 6 hours after a concussion meant the athlete would not be ready to play for more than 10 days

Next step in research: Testing athletes on sideline within a few minutes of a head impact

Tau

What is tau?

Tau is a protein critical to maintaining the tiny tube-shaped nerve cells

Distorted tau appears in Alzheimer's disease and chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), which afflicts some athletes

Off The Wall

Hummingbird egg gets in way of upgrades to Calif. bridge

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A tiny unborn hummingbird is getting in the way of a big bridge project in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The discovery of a nest and egg in a tree is stalling the start of upgrades on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge about 30 miles north of San Francisco, officials said Tuesday.

The species, Anna's Hummingbird, is protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that forbids the removal of the egg and offers other protections to birds.

The nest - about half the size of a fist - was discovered about a week ago when work was set to begin.

It was found on the Richmond side of the \$70 million bridge project, in one of about two dozen trees that were to be removed to widen the free-way, officials said.

Under the protection act, the tree must stay put until the hummingbird baby is gone.


The goals of the act are to protect, restore and manage migratory bird populations to ensure long-term sustainability.

"We've dealt with this on all



In this Aug. 29, 2013 file photo, traffic slows in the morning commute over the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge in San Rafael, Calif.

IN LOVING MEMORY



*Jannie Melissa
Tenorio Feliciano*
Also known as "Mel" or "Jan"

Born on January 06, 1974 and
called by the Lord to her eternal rest on January 28, 2017 at the age of 43

In her new life she joins her:
Grandfather: †Jose Cruz Tenorio
Grandmother: †Blandina Iguel Tenorio
Aunt: †Rosa Tenorio Pangelinan
Sister: †Dinalynn Tenorio Aldan
Nephews: †Darren Lee Lara Aldan, †Angel Lee Lara Aldan, †Allen Lee Lara Aldan

She will be missed and forever remembered in the hearts of her:
Husband: Keral K. Feliciano
Son: Drake Ryan Tenorio Feliciano
Mother: Maria Iguel Tenorio
Uncles and Aunts: Ann and Jim Perry and children, Juan and Rosita Tenorio and children
Brothers and Sisters: Norman Lawrence Tenorio, Georgia and Rex Jose and children, Esteven and Vivian Tenorio and children, Richard Anthony and Kaori Tenorio and child, Albert Lee and Glenda Aldan and children

She will be missed by numerous extended family members, God children, friends, and co-workers.

Nightly Rosary of intentions will be offered at Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag 7pm.
On Monday, February 6, 2017 at 8:00 a.m., her remains will be escorted from the CHC chapel to Tanapag, Santa Remedios Church. Responso and Rosary will commence upon arrival followed by viewing and last respects.

Mass of Christian Burial will then be celebrated at 10:00 a.m.
immediately followed by interment at Tanapag Cemetery.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Maria I. Tenorio & Family

sorts of things on every project we've worked with in the Bay Area," Metropolitan Transportation Commission spokesman Randy Rentschler said.

Audubon California spokesman Garrison Frost said cliff swallows were building their intricate nests beneath an overpass in Petaluma, and cor-

morants held up deconstruction of the old Oakland-San Francisco Bay Bridge.

Some work on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge could be delayed a few weeks by the discovery of the egg.

But Rentschler said the lag is not expected to increase the cost of the project because

there are other tasks that crews can do in the meantime.

The project includes adding a bike path on the upper deck of the bridge that will allow riders to cross in both directions. Plans also call for a third traffic lane on the lower deck to ease congestion for drivers heading eastbound.

👁 OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Ferret has successful pacemaker surgery at Kansas State
MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP)—A ferret is recovering after being fitted with a pacemaker during a rare surgery at Kansas State University. The 4-year-old ferret, named Zelda, is owned by Carl Hobi of Olathe, who took her to the Veterinary Health Center in Manhattan, Kansas, after Christmas. Zelda had a third-degree block in her heart, which caused a low heartbeat and a lack of energy. The university said tests determined Zelda was a good candidate for a pacemaker, although it had to be special ordered because of her veins' small size. The university says Zelda was released two days after the surgery and should enjoy a normal ferret lifespan, which the school's veterinary college says generally is

about 10 years. It was the first time the center implanted a pacemaker in a ferret.

Tinder for apes? Dutch orangutans test out computer dating
THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—How does a primate find a date when they're confined to an urban jungle? Orangutans in a Dutch zoo may get a high-tech helping hand thanks to a research project that is being likened to a Tinder dating app for apes. The research at the Apenheul primate park, on the outskirts of the Dutch city of Apeldoorn, is investigating the emotional responses of orangutans and bonobos to images of the same species they are shown on a touch screen. Biologist Thomas Bionda said Wednesday the screen could help determine an ape's preference between

prospective mates as part of a breeding program.

Cartwheeling choir teacher arrested for indecent exposure
PAWHUSKA, Okla. (AP)—Police in northern Oklahoma say they've arrested a substitute teacher on an indecent exposure complaint after she reportedly did a cartwheel in front of students while wearing a skirt but no undergarments. The Pawhuska Police Department says a student recorded the incident on a cellphone. Police Chief Scott Laird says the incident reportedly happened during a high school choir class in Pawhuska, about 100 miles northeast of Oklahoma City. The substitute teacher, whose name has not been released, was arrested Tuesday afternoon. Pawhuska police say she remains jailed Wednesday morning.

Life & Style

Beyonce announces she's pregnant with twins on Instagram

Blue Ivy is about to become a big sister—twice over.

Beyonce and Jay Z announced Wednesday on Instagram that the superstar singer is pregnant with twins.

"We have been blessed two times over. We are incredibly grateful that our family will be growing by two," said a statement signed "The Carters," Jay Z's real last name.

The news accompanied a photo of Beyonce showing a baby bump while wearing just a bra, underwear and a veil, kneeling in front of a backdrop of flowers. The singer's representative did not immediately respond to requests for comment. The news triggered half a million tweets in 45 minutes, according to Twitter.

Their daughter, Blue Ivy, was born in 2012. The little girl served as the inspiration for Jay Z's hit song "Glory," and she's appeared in music videos alongside her mother.

Beyonce, who set a record in December for earning Grammy Award nominations in the rock, pop, R&B and rap categories in the same year with her diverse album "Lemonade," announced her last pregnancy at the 2011 MTV VMAs.



Beyonce in October ended her six-month Formation World Tour at MetLife Stadium in New York City. She has also been named one of the headliners this spring at the Coachella music festival.

Beyonce and Jay Z routinely make listings of the most powerful people in the entertainment industry. She is the most nominated woman in Grammy Awards history, with 53 nominations and 20 wins. He co-founded the record company Roc-A-Fella, the clothing line Rocawear, a nightclub chain and the streaming service Tidal.

She and Jay Z were married in April 2008. Beyonce revealed in 2013 that she had suffered a miscarriage before Blue Ivy's birth.

In 2013, Beyonce told ABC News that she definitely "would like more children."

"I think my daughter needs some company. I definitely love being a big sister," she said, referring to little sister, Grammy-nominated singer Solange Knowles.

The news of the pregnancy comes a day after Pharrell Williams and his wife, Helen Lasichanh, confirmed they had welcomed triplets. Those babies join 8-year-old big brother Rocket. (AP)

Clinton will reflect on 2016 race in new book

NEW YORK (AP)—Hillary Clinton has a lot of plans for 2017, including some reflections on her stunning loss last fall to Donald Trump.

The former secretary of state, senator and first lady is working on a book of personal essays expected to come out Sept. 26, Simon & Schuster told The Associated Press on Wednesday. The book, still untitled, is structured around hundreds of favorite quotations that have inspired her. The publisher said Clinton will use the quotes to "tell stories from her life, up to and including her experiences in the 2016 presidential campaign" and into her thoughts on the future.

"These are the words I live by," Clinton said in a statement. "These quotes have helped me celebrate the good times, laugh at the absurd times, persevere during the hard times and deepen my appreciation of all life has to offer."

"I hope by sharing these words and my thoughts about them, the essays will be meaningful for readers," Clinton added.

Clinton will also resume her relationship with the Harry Walker Agency, the speakers bureau she worked with after she stepped down in 2013 as secretary of state. Clinton's

lucrative career as a speaker, notably her talks sponsored by Goldman Sachs, were criticized by primary opponent Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and others as a sign that she was too close to the financial industry.

Clinton does have some speeches arranged, but not through the Walker agency, Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill told the AP. On March 8, she will address an International Women's Day event organized by Vital Voices, the initiative Clinton and then-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright founded in 1997. Clinton will speak at a gala for the LGBT Community Center in New York on April 20, and, on May 26, she will give the commencement address at her alma mater, Wellesley College. Her student address at the 1969 graduation ceremonies helped make her a national figure.

Wednesday's announcements mark a growing re-emergence for Clinton, who ran twice for the White House, hoping to become the country's first woman president. She lost to Barack Obama in the 2008 Democratic primaries and, despite winning the popular vote, to Trump in 2016. Clinton, 69, was defeated in one of the harshest presi-

dential elections in modern times, with Trump threatening to jail his opponent because of her use of a private email server while secretary of state.

She has made few public comments since the election, but attended Trump's inauguration earlier this month and has been critical of his policies. She tweeted in support of the nationwide women's marches held the day after his inauguration and condemned his recent executive order restricting immigration. Her pinned tweet quotes remarks she gave Nov. 9, the day after Election Day: "To all the little girls watching...never doubt that you are valuable and powerful & deserving of every chance & opportunity in the world."

News reports have speculated that Clinton may run for mayor of New York City this year, although her book plans and return to the Walker agency make that unlikely. Merrill declined comment.

Clinton has another project in the works: She will reissue her best-selling "It Takes a Village" in an illustrated edition for young people, Simon & Schuster told the AP. Clinton will collaborate with Marla Frazee, a two-time Caldecott finalist for the year's outstanding picture book.

First Year Death Anniversary

Agnes Andres Schrack

Born: January 21, 1952
Died: February 12, 2016

We, the family of our beloved †Agnes, would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us as we commemorate the first year death anniversary of our dear wife/mother/grandmother unto eternal life.

Daily masses will be celebrated as follows at San Antonio Church:

February 4	Saturday	6PM
February 5	Sunday	9AM
February 6-11	Monday-Saturday	6PM
February 12	Sunday	9AM

On Saturday, February 11th, 2017, everyone is invited to join the family for a luncheon at the family residence.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Family



Gospel songs helped Reba McEntire after divorce

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country star Reba McEntire's first-ever gospel record helped her get through a rough patch in her personal life.



The Country Music Hall of Fame singer is releasing "Sing it Now: Songs of Faith & Hope" on Friday, a double album of inspirational and gospel music. She said the timing was right for her to focus on her faith after she and husband Narvel Blackstock announced in 2015 that they were divorcing after 26 years of marriage. "Because I needed it my-

self, going through two and half years of changes in my life," McEntire said. "And who better to lean on than God? And that's who I needed to be listening to. And I needed that faith, that faith strengthened, that hope."

She said in a recent interview that after going through that process, she feels better.

"I feel stronger. I feel happier," McEntire said. "I feel like I have a huge team around me with God and the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ and my angels. ... My family, we're all stronger than ever. It's really sweet how

it has all turned out."

The Grammy winner is also plotting a return to television with a new series that's in pre-production. McEntire was the star of the popular "Reba"

sitcom that ran for six seasons and earned her a Golden Globe nomination, and she has also appeared in numerous TV series and movies over her career. The show was written

by "Desperate Housewives" creator Marc Cherry and is being developed for ABC, McEntire said.

"I play a sheriff in a small town and it's a one-hour dra-

ma," McEntire said.

"He's the head man on it and I totally respect him and love his work," she said, referring to Cherry. "I think he's a genius."



SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Fans bail as Lauryn Hill is 3 hours late for Pittsburgh show **PITTSBURGH** (AP)—Only a fraction of the audience had stuck around when singer-rapper Lauryn Hill took the stage in Pittsburgh more than three hours late. A disc jockey on the bill, DJ Motormane, tells the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette that Hill was at Heinz Hall by 5:30 p.m. to rehearse for Tuesday night's 8 p.m. show, but that her band apparently was delayed by weather. Motormane played until about 9:30 p.m. followed by musician Paul Beaubrun, before Hill's DJ took the stage at 10:30 p.m. The newspaper says Hill didn't take the stage until 11:20 p.m., playing until about 1 a.m. for those who stayed instead of requesting refunds. Hill's spokeswoman didn't immediately comment Wednesday. But fans lit up Twitter with comments including, "I will never pay to see her again. Ever."

Ellen uses 'Finding Dory' plot to criticize Trump order

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ellen DeGeneres has used "Finding Dory" to illustrate her stance on President Donald Trump's recent executive order on immigration and refugees. DeGeneres provides the voice of the title character in the Disney/Pixar hit. Trump hosted a screening of the animated film at the White House over the weekend. DeGeneres went

over the plot of the film on her chat show Monday, mentioning that the animated fish she plays finds herself stuck in an aquarium institute «behind a large wall.» She notes that the wall «has almost no effect» in keeping Dory and her friends from getting back to the ocean. She says Dory is helped by other sea creatures "even though they're completely different colors because that's what you do when you see someone in need, you help them."

Jon Stewart dresses as Trump, criticizes 'vindictive' chaos

NEW YORK (AP)—Jon Stewart has stopped by former Comedy Central colleague Stephen Colbert's show to needle one of his favorite targets, President Donald Trump. The former "Daily Show" host appeared on Tuesday night's "Late Show" dressed as the Republican. He wore a suit with an overly-long red power tie and mocked Trump's hair by wearing a stuffed animal on his head. Stewart mocked Trump's flurry of executive orders by reading faux proclamations from the president, including demanding China immediately send the U.S. the Great Wall in order to secure the Mexican border. Stewart turned more serious at the end of the bit, saying the country has never faced what he called Trump's "purposeful, vindictive chaos" be-

fore. Stewart is an executive producer of the "Late Show."

Trump's Supreme Court unveiling draws 33 million viewers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—More than 33 million viewers watched President Donald Trump reveal his nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court. The sizeable audience may reflect how Trump handled Tuesday's announcement, using his skills honed as a reality TV host on "The Apprentice" to showcase Neil Gorsuch. Unlike past such announcements, this one wasn't leaked earlier to reporters and was made in prime time. The audience edged that for President Barack Obama's final State of the Union address last year, 31.3 million. But it was dwarfed by the 56.5 million that saw Obama announce the killing of Osama bin Laden in 2011, among the decade's most-watched presidential speeches. I with 7.56 million, according to Nielsen company figures.

Critics don't even want animatronic Trump to speak

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Some critics of President Donald Trump are so adamant in their opposition that they don't even want a fake version of him to speak. An online petition was started last week, asking Walt Disney World to keep an animatronic Trump silent in its Hall of Presidents attraction. The attraction has animatronic

figures of all U.S. presidents. Recent incumbent presidents have recorded speeches for their animatronic doubles. The Change.org petition says Trump ran a campaign filled with hateful speech and he doesn't deserve to have a voice at a place like Disney World in Florida.

Bill Cosby judge to hear defense request for outside jurors

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Bill Cosby's lawyers will make oral arguments this month on their bid to move the actor's sexual assault trial to another Pennsylvania county. The defense fears that Montgomery County jurors have been exposed to extensive news coverage of the case since Cosby's arrest last year. The case was also an issue in the district attorney's race in the suburban Philadelphia county. Prosecutors want the trial held in Montgomery County, but don't oppose bringing jurors in from elsewhere. Judge Steven O'Neill on Wednesday has scheduled a Feb. 27 hearing. He plans to start the trial by June. O'Neill is also weighing a prosecution request to let 13 other women testify to support the accuser's complaint that Cosby drugged and molested her in 2004. The 79-year-old Cosby, who was known as America's Dad for his top-rated family sitcom, has pleaded not guilty and remains free on bail.

Police report: Allman Brothers drummer Trucks killed himself

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Allman Brothers drummer Butch Trucks killed himself in front of his wife, police reports released Wednesday show.

The 69-year-old Trucks shot himself in the head Jan. 27 at his home, the West Palm Beach police reports show.

Trucks was one of two original drummers, along with Jai Johanny "Jaimoe" Johanson, who helped formed the rhythms and the drive for The Allman Brothers. Formed in 1969 and led by Duane and Gregg Allman, the group helped define the Southern rock sound that incorporated blues, rock, country and jazz.

Originally from Jacksonville, Florida, Trucks joined with the Allman siblings to form the band, including guitarist Dickey Betts and bassist Berry Oakley. They moved to Macon, Georgia, to cut their first record with Capricorn

Records.

The two drummers melded their individual styles, with Trucks considered to be the straightforward, driving train rhythm player, while Johanson added his R&B and jazz drumming influences.

The band's 1971 live album, "At Fillmore East," became their seminal breakthrough album, featuring a fusion of jazz, blues and rock. It featured songs like "You Don't Love Me" and a 22-minute version of "Whipping Post."

Trucks also helped encourage a family lineage of musicians. One nephew, Derek Trucks, is the frontman of the Tedeschi Trucks Band and also joined The Allman Brothers band in 1999 as a guitarist. Another nephew, Duane Trucks, is the drummer for Widespread Panic.

Trucks was most recently touring with his band, Butch Trucks and the Freight Train.

Boy's belief in God doesn't include belief in mom's church

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 15-year-old boy. I'm happy with my life, except for one thing. My mom believes in God, and Dad doesn't. I believe in God, but I don't support my mom's religion. My friends and neighbors think I'm in that religion, but I don't believe in their beliefs. It's really uncomfortable when people ask why I haven't been in church.

Mom signs me up for church activities, and I don't like going. I feel awkward when I try to talk to my parents about it. I'm not close to them, and I don't know what to do. I have been feeling stressed out lately. I don't want to hurt my mother's feelings. Can you help me?

TEEN IN OGDEN, UTAH

DEAR TEEN: I can try. What you should NOT do is allow your mother's devout faith and your lack of it to become a contest of wills or a basis for argument.

At 15, you are entering adulthood, and these are important years in your life. Thank your mother for the great foundation she has given you. Tell her you love her, and you hope she will continue to love you as you explore what your beliefs are on your spiritual journey—because it IS a journey. A wise clergyman once told me something I will share with you: The opposite of faith is not doubt; it is certainty.

DEAR ABBY: I have had one major and one minor bout with cancer. Everyone I know treated me the same and were helpful except for one longtime friend I'll call Brandy.

You see, I changed and grew as a result of having cancer. The others seemed to accept this, but not Brandy. She still expects me to "snap back" and do everything I liked to do before. She can't accept that I want to try new things and have let go of others, sends me "gloom and doom" articles about cancer, and even tried to fix me up with someone even though I am happily married. Brandy treated me like an invalid, even after I recovered.

She does not like change and became angry when I suggested that both of us had changed—perhaps too much to sustain the friendship. I tried explaining it to her, but she didn't understand. A therapist advised ending the friendship as gently as possible, so I did.

Do you think I did the right thing? We used to have so much in common.

NOTHING'S THE SAME IN NEW YORK

DEAR NOTHING'S: Although you used to have a lot in common with Brandy, your cancer changed you. Someone who sends "gloom and doom" articles about the disease and tries to destroy your marriage by fixing you up is not a friend but a saboteur. You absolutely did the right thing by following your therapist's suggestion.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend pins me up against a wall to kiss me every chance she gets. What does this mean?

LIP LOCKED IN L.A.

DEAR LIP LOCKED: I don't know what it means to her, but to me it means she may have seen it in a movie and is trying to show you how passionate she is about you. If you don't like it, speak up and say so—and if you do like it, speak up and say so.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



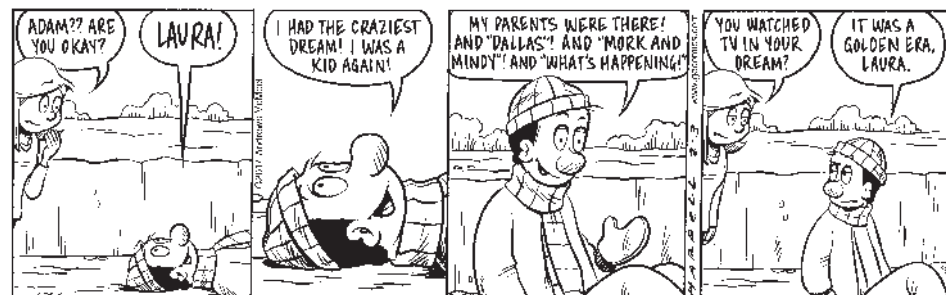
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

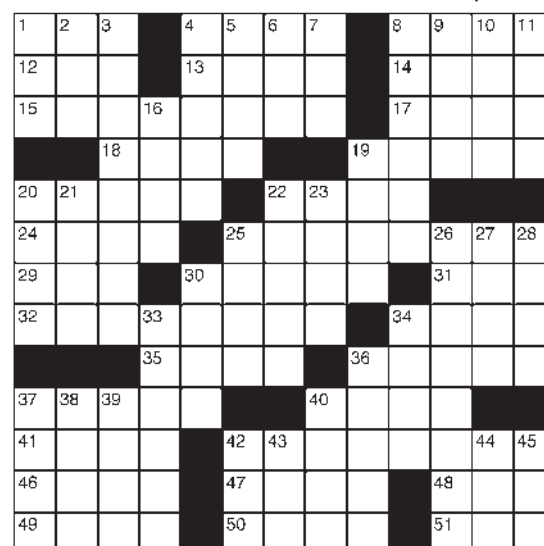
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cave
4 Item on stage
8 Church area
12 Greek mountain
13 Mad king of theater
14 Yuletide tune
15 Moliere protagonist
17 Glitz partner
18 Whale groups
19 Thugs
20 Björn Borg, for one
22 Despot
24 Chart toppers
25 Scented
29 Enzyme suffix
30 Without exception
31 Blond shade
32 Pleasure seeker
34 Gratis
- DOWN**
- 35 Avoid
36 Modify
37 Kiddled
40 Earth Day subj.
41 Autobahn auto
42 North Carolina team
46 Hereditary unit
47 Colum- bus' home
48 Sock part
49 High-lander
50 Mexican entree
51 Hot tub
- 2 Nabokov novel
3 Singled out
4 Feather in one's cap
5 Umps
6 Klutz
7 Opposite of "post-"
8 Long-haired cat
9 Horse-back game
10 Actor Connery
11 Stately trees
16 Tiny amounts
19 Like venison
20 Persian leader
21 Saga-cious
22 Lock of hair
23 Type
25 Hertz rival
26 Small pastries
27 "Got it"
28 "Moon-struck"
actress
30 Wife of Geraint
33 Brunch fare
34 Drifting ice
36 Sneeze sound
37 Trots
38 Oil cartel
39 Vegas game
40 Rocker Clapton
42 Young-ster
43 "Caught ya!"
44 Prune
45 Yacht spot

Solution time: 27 mins.



Yesterday's answer 2-3



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Isla Fisher, 41; Nathan Lane, 61; Morgan Fairchild, 67; Blythe Danner, 74.

Happy Birthday: Let your creativity take over, but not your emotions. Size up the situations you face and consider whether each one is worth your while or not. Avoid getting involved in other people's affairs or concerns that will keep you from accomplishing the personal goals you want to achieve. Put your energy into what will bring the highest returns. Your numbers are 4, 12, 23, 29, 34, 41, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Someone with ulterior motives will take advantage of your energetic, helpful nature. Gullibility will cost you financially, physically and emotionally. Question everything you hear and assess each situation before you get involved. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be creative in the way you handle people. Offer incentives and suggestions that will raise greater awareness about your concerns. An emotional plea will generate greater consciousness in your community. Don't lose sight of your goals. Make your vote count. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be careful how you deal with household responsibilities. Take care of your home in case friends or family members stop by for an unexpected visit. Physical activity will improve your health and well-being. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't deliberate about what you think should be done—put your plans into motion. Tak-

ing action will show that you are capable and responsible. Refrain from making an impulsive personal change. Leave the past behind and don't go over budget. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take time out for yourself. Educational pursuits or making time for love and romance are highlighted. Don't let an emotional matter at home rain on your parade. Take a short trip or make a commitment to live a healthy life. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Check out different cultures or ways of doing things. Interacting with people from all walks of life will open your mind to all sorts of ideas and concepts. Don't feel threatened by change. New beginnings will inspire you. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Getting upset over financial matters can be expected if you take a risk. Opt for the safe route and only spend what's necessary to ensure your comfort and security. A partnership will have its limitations if you choose discord over passion. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Live life your own way. Don't fall into someone else's routines. Make a point to look the way you want and to style your life to suit your own needs. A passionate approach to the way you move forward will leave a lasting impression. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put more effort into making personal gains. Setting goals that will help you improve your health and physical strength is encouraged. Romantic gestures, suggestions and long-term plans will bring you closer to someone you love. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't get angry; get moving. Take hold of whatever situation you face and rely on yourself to get things done. Finding the right balance of old and new ideas will help you reach your goals. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Use your time wisely. Refrain from letting your emotions lead to a no-win situation. Consider what's important to you and don't take any detours. Finish what you start and let others do their own thing. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Proceed with caution no matter what you are faced with. Carelessness will result in minor injury or illness that will limit your ability to take care of pressing matters. Good nutrition and physical strength are crucial. *****

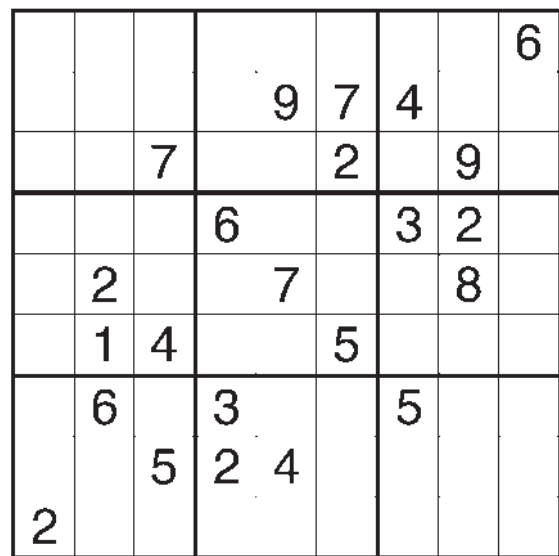
Birthday Baby: You are refined, careful and unique. You are adaptable and disciplined.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com. Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	1	6	3	9	4	8	7	5
3	7	9	5	2	8	1	4	6
4	8	5	1	7	6	2	3	9
5	6	2	7	3	1	9	8	4
7	9	8	6	4	5	3	1	2
1	3	4	9	8	2	5	6	7
9	4	7	8	5	3	6	2	1
8	2	1	4	6	9	7	5	3
6	5	3	2	1	7	4	9	8

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CARRIE FISHER (1956-2016)

Solution: 12 letters

H	W	H	E	A	R	T	B	R	E	A	K	E	R	S
A	I	N	R	O	F	I	L	A	C	O	P	S	S	R
N	S	E	P	I	S	O	D	E	O	I	R	E	N	E
N	H	D	S	E	M	A	G	H	R	A	M	I	T	T
A	F	D	R	L	U	A	P	A	W	A	K	E	N	S
H	U	I	S	A	L	N	P	R	J	E	D	I	U	I
C	L	E	M	R	C	I	A	S	D	R	U	O	L	S
A	D	I	L	Y	E	T	H	B	L	U	E	S	B	S
I	R	L	I	L	S	H	S	Y	E	S	I	I	F	P
C	I	L	F	E	T	H	T	O	L	B	B	M	R	E
I	N	I	S	O	A	O	A	O	P	R	B	O	A	A
R	K	B	S	J	R	L	D	M	R	U	E	N	N	K
T	I	G	E	L	S	D	E	D	P	B	D	V	C	E
I	N	A	Y	R	B	A	S	D	L	O	N	Y	E	R
O	G	N	I	R	H	A	R	R	I	S	O	N	S	B

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Awakens, Beverly Hills, Billie, Blues, Blunt, Brothers, Bryan, Burbs, California, Debbie, Eddie, Episode, Films, Ford, Frances, Games, Hannah, Harrison, Heartbreakers, Hook, Irene, James, Jedi, Joely, Legit, Loud, Maps, Paul, Postcards, Reynolds, Ringo, Shampoo, Simon, Sisters, Speaker, Stars, Star Wars, Todd, Tricia, Wishful Drinking

Yesterday's Answer: **Combat**
Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 120 puzzles.)

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Looking to buy or long term lease house/apartment. Will pay lump-sum. Look for Zheng at 287-7676.

JAR DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION
Looking for (1) Mason
5 Years Experience, Skilled Worker With
Good Working Character & Personality

P.O. Box 504249 CK,
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 285-5354 / 285-4297

WHATZIT Solution: All hands on deck

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

DECK

♠ J109 ♠ A86 ♠ KQ74 ♠ 532
♥ J8 ♥ Q542 ♥ 93 ♥ AK1076
♦ 8652 ♦ A10 ♦ J34 ♦ KQ97
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Catalina Pinaula Rios
P.O. Box 504748 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 789-8199/235-1822
Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter)
of the Petition to)
Appoint General) FCD GU CIVIL
Guardianship For:) ACTION NO.
Ana Antonia Arriola) 16-0643
Minor Child)
By:) NOTICE OF
Catalina Pinaula Rios) HEARING
Petitioners)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 2nd, 2017 at 10:30am in Courtroom 205A, before Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 29th day of December, 2016.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, : CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff, : NO.: 15-0203
-v- :
The Estate of LORENZO :
ALDAN AYUYU, Deceased, :
Defendants. :

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on January 24, 2017, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 011 G 946, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 917 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 18 dated December 3, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 93-4286, dated December 9, 1993, the description there being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 10, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 27th day of January, 2017:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

TELESOURCE COMM, INC.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
ONE (1) SENIOR PLANT OPERATOR

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Supervise and coordinates activities of workers engaged in operation, control and maintenance of electrical power generating, receiving and distribution stations, transmission lines, and distribution systems and equipment. Devises and writes operating procedures for plant system, transmission and distribution lines, and receiving and distribution stations based on review and interpretation of government regulations. Supervises and approves reading of charts, meters, and gauges to monitor voltage and electricity flows. Supervise proper check/maintenance of equipment and indicators to detect evidence of operating problems. Supervises proper adjustment controls to regulate the flow of power or electrical output from plant to distribution stations. Administer all safety standards (OSHA) and responsible for training and enforcing applicable federal and local policy and procedures.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Diploma;
- Five (5) years experience in operation and maintenance of diesel engine power generation;
- Experience in SCADA (System Control and Data Acquisition) – Automation and high voltage power generation facilities and transmission/distribution systems. Combination of education and work experience is accepted as a minimum entry for this position. Foreign Equivalence is acceptable.

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Jeffrey L. Barr
General Manager in-Charge
P.O. Box 464
Tinian, MP 96952
or
By Facsimile: (670) 433-4505; or by e-mail: jeff.meti@pticom.com or admin.meti@pticom.com

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB17-DCCA/DYS-079

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 27, 2017

TIME: 9:30 A.M.

“OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH THE CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLES 5, SECTION 8652 (A) – (D).

THE PROVISIONS OF CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER

SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN

DIRECTOR, P&S



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

CNMI GOVERNMENT



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NO.: RFP17-BECQ/DCRM-080

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 27, 2017

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“2017 CNMI RECREATIONAL MOORING BUOY PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT & MAINTENANCE FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT”

THE SCOPE OF WORK AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER JANUARY 27, 2017 FROM THE BECQ/DCRM OFFICE OR BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO erinderrington@becq.gov.mp. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE E-MAILED TO erinderrington@becq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS FEBRUARY 14, 2017.

THE PROVISIONS OF CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN

ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN

DIRECTOR, P&S



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP 17- CHCC-13

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 24, 2017

TIME: 4:30PM

MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING: FEBRUARY 8, 2017

TIME: 10:00AM

CHCC CONFERENCE ROOM #3

“FOR OUTPATIENT PHARMACY – COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION”

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION - MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ JESUS D. BABAUTA

ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S



Legislative Bureau

NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Examination Announcement Number: LB-JVA-17-003

Position: Journal Clerk

PL-UNGRADED: \$17,456.99 Annual

Opening Date: January 24, 2017

Closing Date: February 07, 2017

The salary will be determined by the qualification of the appointee

Location: Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan

General Duties:

- Records and transcribes all sessions. Transcriptions must be completed expeditiously and prior to the following session;
- Assists the Clerk in maintaining an up to date status table of legislative documents;
- Assists the Clerk in preparation of materials for sessions and other legislative meetings;
- Assists the Clerk in the duplication and dissemination of documents during sessions;
- Prepares the compilation of legislative journals for publication by the Legislative Clerk;
- Acts in the capacity of the Legislative Clerk in the absence of the Legislative Clerk;
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Possess two years relevant work experience or a minimum of an A.A. or A.S. degree or higher from a United States accredited institution of higher education;
- Knowledgeable with word processing with word processing, and interpretive understanding of at least two of the official languages of the CNMI preferred.

Education requirements may be substituted with related experience

Education and training claimed under item 19(A) through 19(F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by a copy of an official diploma and/or certificate. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

Employment application may be accessed at www.cnmileg.gov.mp or may be picked up at the Office of the Director of the Legislative Bureau located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan. Completed application and police clearance may be submitted to the Office of the Director or may be mailed to the Office of the Director; Legislative Bureau; P.O. Box 500586; Saipan, MP 96950. No telephone inquiries.



Legislative Bureau

NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Examination Announcement No.: LB-JVA-17-004

Opening Date: January 26, 2017

Closing Date: February 09, 2017

This examination is for the purpose of developing an Open Competitive and Promotional Eligible list. It is the policy of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that the personnel system shall be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

POSITION AND SALARY:

Information Technology Manager (1 Position)

PL-UNGRADED

\$40,000 to \$50,000 P/A

The salary will be determined by the qualifications of the applicant and limited to the amount currently appropriated for the position.

LOCATION:
Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan

JOB DESCRIPTIONS:
This position reports to the Legislative Bureau Director.

Manage and maintain Legislature's computer network and systems. Ensure the security of all technological networks and systems. Ensure networks and systems are accessible and equipped with current hardware and software. Advise management on matters pertaining to information technology management, upgrades, technological issues, technological policies and procedures. Assist all members of the legislature including their staff, Legislative Bureau and CNMI Youth Congress staff with technological issues as they arise. Provide hardware and software training and support as needed.

Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree. Copy of degree/official transcript and police clearance must be attached to the application. A complete resume attached to the application is also preferred.

An employee in this class should (1) have a strong technical background; (2) have 10 years' experience managing an information technology operations; (3) have experience in providing hands-on technical support and training; (4) have good oral and written communication skills; (5) have the ability to use standards business software programs to prepare reports, memos, summaries, and analyses; (6) have an understanding of government operations; (7) be a team player and self-motivated; and (8) be detailed orientated, organized, and security conscious.

Employment application may be accessed at www.cnmileg.gov.mp or may be picked up at the Office of the Director of the Legislative Bureau located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan. Completed application and police clearance may be submitted to the Office of the Director or may be mailed to the Office of the Director; Legislative Bureau; P.O. Box 500586; Saipan, MP 96950. No telephone inquiries.

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Curry's 3-point clinic leads Warriors past Hornets



OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—With dad Dell watching live Wednesday night, Stephen Curry hit 11 3-pointers and scored 39 points in three quarters, coming back with vengeance from a one-game absence while ill and leading the Golden State Warriors to a 126-111 blowout of his hometown Charlotte Hornets.

Klay Thompson added 29 points, matched his career high with eight assists and Kevin Durant had 18 points, eight rebounds and eight assists for the NBA-leading Warriors (42-7).

Curry recorded his fifth career game with at least 11 3s, shot 14 for 20 and 11 of 15 from long range and dished out eight assists facing Charlotte for the second time in exactly a week.

The two-time reigning NBA MVP was sick—his shooting, that is. He sat out Sunday night at Portland with the stomach flu. Nothing slowed him down this night, and he even hit one third-quarter 3 while falling into the front row of fans.

Already having set the single-game record with 13 on Nov. 7 against New Orleans, Curry rested in the fourth. He has 20 3s in his past two games and Golden State wound up with 21 3s in all Wednesday.

Frank Kaminsky scored 24 points off the bench for the Hornets, who lost their sixth in a row overall and ninth straight on the road.

Curry hit six first-quarter 3s and Golden State matched a franchise record with nine 3s in a quarter, doing so for the sixth time. The Warriors led 41-21 after the first, their NBA-leading 14th 40-point quarter.

The Warriors reached 70 points by halftime for the seventh time, up 77-56 at the break.

Late in the first half, Durant covered his mouth with his hand in pure awe when Curry connected from downtown. That was after Curry's 1,788th career regular-season 3, which moved him past Rashard Lewis into 12th on the NBA career list.

In the waning seconds before halftime, two defenders swarmed Curry out near half-court in an effort to keep the ball out of his hands.

JaVale McGee scored nine points and had a season-best four blocks starting in place of injured center Zaza Pachulia, who will miss at least a week with a strained right rotator cuff.

Curry had 12 points by the 6:41 mark of the first with the Warriors knocking down seven of their first eight from long range to go ahead 23-9.

Cavaliers 125, Timberwolves 97

In Cleveland, LeBron James

scored 27 points while Kyrie Irving had 14 and a career-high 14 assists as the Cleveland Cavaliers, coming off a losing record in January, defeated the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Cleveland, which went 7-8 last month, began February looking like the defending NBA champions. The Cavaliers held a three-point halftime lead and took control midway through the third quarter. James' three-point play gave the Cavaliers a 90-70 lead.

Cleveland All-Star forward Kevin Love missed his second straight game because of back spasms, but the Cavaliers had five players in double figures in scoring.

James was 11 of 14 from the field, and Irving scored 14 points. Kyle Korver, who has struggled since being acquired from Atlanta last month, scored 20 points, going 8 of 11 from the field and hitting four 3-pointers. Tristan Thompson had 18 points and 14 rebounds.

Karl-Anthony Towns led Minnesota with 26 points and Andrew Wiggins added 23 for the Timberwolves, who won five of six to finish January.

Celtics 109, Raptors 104

In Boston, Isaiah Thomas scored 19 of his 44 points in the final quarter to lift the Boston Celtics over the Toronto Raptors in a showdown for first place in the Atlantic Division.

It was the fifth straight win for Boston, which moved 1 ½ games ahead of the Raptors in the division and holds the Eastern Conference's No. 2 seed.

Kyle Lowry led Toronto with 32 points, former Celtic Jared Sullinger had 13 and Norman Powell added 12. The Raptors have lost seven of nine.

In a final quarter that rivaled playoff intensity, Celtics forward Jaylen Brown was fouled on a breakaway attempt and walked over and had words with Lowry — before a few others player joined in and had to be separated by the officials. Boston's Terry Rozier and the Raptors' DeMarre Carroll were each given a technical.

Heat 116, Hawks 93

In Miami, Goran Dragic scored 27 points, Dion Waiters added 20 and the Miami Heat pushed the NBA's longest current winning streak to nine games by easing past the Atlanta Hawks.

Hassan Whiteside scored 18 points and grabbed 18 rebounds for the Heat, who hadn't won nine straight since November 2013. James Johnson scored 16 before getting ejected in the fourth quarter



for Miami.

Kent Bazemore scored 14 and Dennis Schroder scored 12 for the Hawks.

Atlanta's Taurean Prince was ejected midway through the fourth quarter for pulling Whiteside down from behind and being assessed a flagrant-2. James Johnson retaliated in Whiteside's defense, and was ejected after getting a technical.

Pistons 118, Pelicans 98

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored a career-high 38 points, leading the Detroit Pistons over the New Orleans Pelicans.

Tobias Harris added 19 points and Andre Drummond 17 for the Pistons, who ended an eight-game losing streak to New Orleans. Detroit had lost three in a row overall.

New Orleans blew a nine-point lead in the third quarter and lost its third straight and fourth in five games. Anthony Davis, who scored a career-high 59 points last February at Detroit, had 31 points and 12 rebounds, while Jrue Holiday added 22 points and 11 assists.

Knicks 95, Nets 90

In New York, Kristaps Porzingis had 19 points and 12 rebounds, and joined a group of mostly substitutes who led a big fourth-quarter turnaround that carried the New York Knicks over the Brooklyn Nets.

lyn Nets.

Carmelo Anthony had 15 points for the Knicks, but he was on the bench for the entire fourth quarter after shooting 6 for 22 from the field. Instead, the Knicks rallied behind Willy Hernangomez, who had 16 points and 16 rebounds, and Sasha Vujacic, who made team history by converting a pair of four-point plays in the game.

The only other starter on the floor for the comeback was Brandon Jennings—and he was only starting because point guard Derrick Rose remained out with a sprained ankle.

Rondae Hollis-Jefferson scored 16 for the Nets, who lost their seventh straight and fell to 0-9 against Atlantic Division opponents this season.

Pacers 98, Magic 88

In Orlando, Florida, C.J. Miles scored 16 points, Glenn Robinson III added 14 and the Indiana Pacers held on to beat the Orlando Magic.

The Pacers used their smaller lineup and timely 3-point shooting to keep the struggling Magic from rallying. Orlando didn't have an answer for Miles' 3-point shooting, including a trey that pushed the lead to 96-88 in the final two minutes of the fourth quarter. Orlando moved within five points a few times in the final period but could not come any closer.

Jeff Teague had 13 points and nine assists and was 8

AP Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry (30) makes a 3-point basket over Charlotte Hornets' Frank Kaminsky during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017, in Oakland, Calif.

for 9 from the free-throw line to join six Pacers in double figures. Serge Ibaka led five Magic players in double figures with 20 points.

The Pacers have defeated their former coach Frank Vogel four straight times this season.

Mavericks 113, 76ers 95

In Dallas, Seth Curry scored 22 points, Salah Mejri had 16 points and a career-high 17 rebounds and the Dallas Mavericks beat the Philadelphia 76ers for their fifth win in six games.

Mejri played 21 minutes at center with Andrew Bogut out of action and helped Dallas — the NBA's worst-rebounding team — set a season high for boards and outrebound the Sixers 51-39. He scored 10 points, all on dunks, early in the fourth quarter to help the Mavericks lead by 22.

Jahlil Okafor led the 76ers with 16 points, and Ersan Il-yasova added 13. Philadelphia played without starters Robert Covington (bruised right hand) and Joel Embiid (left knee contusion).

Clippers 124, Suns 114

In Phoenix, Blake Griffin scored 29 points and the Los Angeles Clippers bounced back from a humiliating 46-point loss at Golden State to beat the Phoenix Suns.

The victory over the team with the worst record in the West left Los Angeles 2-4 since Chris Paul went down with a torn left thumb ligament.

Raymond Felton added 18 points and J.J. Redick 16 for the Clippers. Los Angeles never trailed, but Phoenix cut the lead to two four times and was down by just one at 94-93 with 10:26 to play.

Eric Bledsoe scored 41 to tie the career high he set two games ago, but Phoenix lost its fifth in a row. Devin Booker added 20 points, his 14th straight game scoring at least 20.

The Clippers' DeAndre Jordan drew a flagrant foul two for flattening Phoenix's Marquese Chriss and was ejected with 4:52 left in the third quarter.

Grizzlies 119, Nuggets 99

In Denver, Marc Gasol scored 24 points, Mike Conley had 18 and the Memphis Grizzlies beat the short-handed Denver Nuggets.

Memphis led for most of the game and won its third in a row.

Emmanuel Mudiay had 14 points, seven assists and six rebounds in his return to the Nuggets lineup. Denver came into the game without Nikola Jokic (left hip flexor strain) and Will Barton (left ankle soreness) and then lost two more players before the night ended.

Point guard Jameer Nelson was ejected just 4:07 into the game, leaving the Nuggets with three guards, and leading scorer Danilo Gallinari exited late in the third quarter with a left groin strain.

The Grizzlies took advantage of a tired Nuggets team that lost on the road to the Lakers on Tuesday. They led by 16 in the first half and increased it to 19 in the third when Gasol had 10 points.

Jazz 104, Bucks 88

In Salt Lake City, Rudy Gobert scored 26 points and grabbed 15 rebounds, leading the Utah Jazz to an easy victory over the Milwaukee Bucks.

The double-double was Gobert's 33rd of the season for the Jazz, who also got 27 points from Gordon Hayward.

Utah took a 61-43 lead into halftime after dominating the second quarter. The Jazz allowed the Bucks to score consecutive baskets just once in the second 12 minutes and their 31 points tied for the third-most they have scored in the second quarter this season. Gobert scored 15 of those 31.

The Bucks shot well from 3-point range in the first quarter, going 5 for 8, but were just 4 for 15 the rest of the night. Jabari Parker paced the Bucks with 17 points.

Bulls 128, Thunder 100

In Oklahoma City, Jimmy Butler scored 28 points to help the Chicago Bulls rout the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Dwyane Wade had 18 points and seven assists for the Bulls, who shot 60 percent from the field overall and 68 percent in the second half.

Russell Westbrook had 28 points and eight assists, and Jerami Grant scored a season-high 15 points for the Thunder, who lost their third straight overall and had their five-game home winning streak snapped.

It took until the fourth quarter for someone other than Westbrook to reach 10 points for the Thunder. Oklahoma City shot just 38 percent from the field and made 10 of 37 3-pointers. It was the second-worst loss of the season for Oklahoma City, behind a 34-point loss in Memphis.

That was awkward: Goodell dodges on Raiders, parries on Pats

HOUSTON (AP)—Nothing produces awkward NFL moments quite like watching the commissioner parry all those thorny issues involving the league's oldest and newest troublemakers—the Raiders and Patriots.

Reporters spent time poking Roger Goodell about “Deflategate,” the Raiders’ now-threatened move to Las Vegas, and other delicate topics at the commissioner’s less-formal, less-crowded and, frankly, less-newsworthy pre-Super Bowl news conference, held on a Wednesday this year instead of the traditional Friday afternoon slot.

Going sans necktie and speaking in a room about half the size as his usual Super Bowl venue, Goodell insisted nothing was off-kilter between the league and either team.

He said “there’s a great deal more work to be done” before the Raiders can move to Las Vegas, a reality reinforced after both casino magnate Sheldon Adelson and a backup financier, Goldman Sachs, pulled out of the stadium deal this week. The league is supposed to decide on the Las Vegas move in March.

“But if any key aspect is changed, the process could be slowed down,” Eric Grubman, the league’s executive vice president of business ventures, told The Associated Press.

Goodell said it was unlikely a casino owner could own a stake in a stadium, which would seem to disqualify Adelson anyway. About the more delicate question of whether it’s good business for the league, which has always disdained gambling, to stick a franchise in the gambling capital of America, the commissioner said the league is in touch with the reality that gambling “exists throughout our world.”



AP
NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell poses for a picture after a news conference during preparations for the NFL Super Bowl 51 football game Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017, in Houston.

“We’ve always said there’s a fine line between team sports gambling and the NFL,” Goodell said. “We want to protect the integrity of our game and that’s something we’ll always do.”

The commissioner was only four days away from potentially handing the Lombardi Trophy to Patriots owner Robert Kraft. It would be the most awkward commissioner-owner handoff since 1981, when Pete Rozelle presented Raiders owner Al Davis with the trophy while Davis was suing the league over Rozelle’s attempt

to block the team’s move from Oakland to Los Angeles.

Fittingly, Goodell took five questions about the Patriots, almost all of them designed to put him on the defensive. The core of it: “Deflategate,” and the four-game suspension he levied against Patriots quarterback Tom Brady to start the season.

Among the highlights: Why didn’t Goodell attend a Patriots playoff game, while heading to Atlanta twice? Has he spoken with Brady? How is he getting

along with Kraft?

“We have a disagreement about what occurred,” Goodell said. “We have been very transparent about what we think the violation was. We went through a lengthy process. We disagree about that. ... I’m not afraid of disagreement. And I don’t think disagreement leads to distrust or hatred.”

Kraft was among the very few owners who attended the news conference, but he ducked out quickly afterward without taking questions.

Goodell also faced a number of questions on the Chargers’ recent move from San Diego to Los Angeles: “Relocations are painful,” he said.

Of this week’s news reports that San Diego could end up as a home for the Raiders if Las Vegas falls through, Goodell cited a “history of markets that get deals done after a team leaves. It’s a painful way to do it.” Among those markets are Cleveland, St. Louis, Los Angeles and this year’s Super Bowl host, Houston.

On other topics:

■ Goodell said no timeline

had been set on an investigation into alleged domestic abuse by Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott. He said there’s an active investigation into former Giants kicker Josh Brown and no decision has been made about his status.

■ About loosening restrictions on marijuana use, Goodell essentially ignored the question and said he wants to include that topic in negotiations with the players’ union.

■ The commissioner defended widely derided and often non-competitive weekly games on Thursday nights and said they’d remain part of the schedule.

■ He fielded no questions about concussions or protecting quarterbacks, even though both remained hot topics all season.

■ In the wake of a TV ratings decline, the league will keep looking into ways to decrease the amount of dead time during games.

■ Probed a few times on the travel ban and other decisions made recently by President Donald Trump, Goodell refused to wade in, saying he’s 100 percent focused on the Super Bowl. “We’re in a unique position to have an event on Sunday that will bring the world together,” he said.

Goodell also announced the NFL would return to Mexico City next year for a game pitting—who else?—the Raiders and the Patriots.

If the commissioner meets up with Kraft there—or on Sunday, for that matter—he insists everything will be just fine.

“I would tell you it’s not awkward at all for me,” Goodell said. “We have a job to do. We do our job. We understand fans are loyal and passionate for their team and they object and don’t like the outcome. That’s not unusual for me.”

After up and down season, Pats’ Gostkowski remains confident

HOUSTON (AP)—Being a kicker in the NFL is hard enough.

Doing it for a New England Patriots franchise that has enjoyed some of the most clutch kicking performances in NFL playoff history is something entirely different.

Such is the position Patriots kicker Stephen Gostkowski is in as New England prepares for what could be a close Super Bowl matchup between its No. 1 ranked offense and Atlanta’s No. 1 defense.

The Patriots have won their four Super Bowls by a total of just 13 points, and are favored by just three over the Falcons. In such a game it could come down to which team has the best kicker.

The successor to Adam Vinatieri, who was respon-

sible for game-winning kicks in each of the Patriots’ Super Bowl wins in 2002 and 2004, Gostkowski has been a steady force since Bill Belichick used a fourth-round pick on him in 2006.

But this season has brought uncharacteristic accuracy issues for the 33-year-old. Gostkowski missed three field goals and two extra-points in the Patriots first seven games of 2016 - his most missed field goals since 2012. The extra-point misses were also his first since his rookie season. He has eight game-winning kicks in his career, but just one in the playoffs—back in 2007. But he says his confidence is high heading into his fourth Super Bowl.

“You know the pressures of

the game and you want it so bad, but it’s easy to compartmentalize and focus on doing your job instead of all the craziness around it,” he said. “If that will help me play better, good. I hope so.”

That approach has certainly worked for him over the latter part of the season. He’s missed just two field goals over the last 11 games.

In New England’s AFC championship win over Pittsburgh, Gostkowski hit three field goals to pass Vinatieri and become the franchise’s all-time leader in made playoff field goals. So no matter what happens Sunday, Gostkowski’s place in Patriots’ history is secure.

Special teams captain Matt Slater said even when his kicker was struggling early, he

never worried about him getting back on track.

“I don’t think much needs to be said between Stephen and I,” Slater said. “We’ve had several conversations over the years about these types of situations and it is what it is. It’s football and things like this are going to happen.”

Even still, Gostkowski has taken the bitter with the sweet this season.

Though he’s been in several high pressure moments since the first time he walked on an NFL field 11 years ago, there’s also still a feeling of newness.

“I’d say it’s more enjoyable,” Gostkowski said. “Because the first Super Bowl we had the whole undefeated thing going on, so it was even crazier. ... My first time I

wasn’t married, I had no kids. This was all I had. It was a lot harder to turn off.”

Having a wife and three kids since then served as a nice buffer much of the pageantry and deluge of media that follows a team throughout Super Bowl week.

“Now we’ve been to a couple, we’ve won one,” he said. “It’s easier to take this stuff and concentrate on the game.”

That’s the case even as the noise level may be as high as it’s ever been this time around.

Along with the usual spotlight that shines on the Patriots, they’re preparing for a Falcons’ team that is 12-0 this season when scoring 31 or more points.

The most important marker for Gostkowski entering this

week, though, is that he is back to full strength of sitting a day of practice during the Patriots’ open week following the conference championship win.

“It took a while to get to feeling strong again,” he said. “Luckily all I gotta do is kick a ball.”

The Patriots are 4-1 in games decided by seven or fewer points this season. But they haven’t needed Gostkowski’s leg to pull out many of their wins.

Only one of New England’s games during the 2016 season have been decided by three points or fewer, its 23-21 season-opening win over Arizona. In that game Gostkowski connected on what proved to be the deciding 32-yard field goal with 3:44 to play in the game.

Fiesta Resort nears regular season sweep

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is just a win away from sweeping the regular season of the 2016 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament following its 48-24 rout of QQ Rent A Car in the women's division game last Monday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Fiesta now has a 6-0 record in the seven-team field and will attempt to keep its perfect mark this Saturday when it takes on Sun Palace (4-2).

Chevy Kate Alipio top-scored in Fiesta's 24-point win against QQ Rent A Car after registering 11 points. Three of his teammates chipped in at least 6 points apiece to ease past their foe.

Fiesta is already assured of one of the four semis spots in its group, Sun Palace, IT&E (5-2), and CTSI (5-1).

Sun Palace and IT&E formalized their entry to the playoff round after downing separate foes this week. IT&E pummeled Armatech, 67-8, last Wednesday, while Sun Palace topped QQ Rent A Car last Monday, 28-18.

Jeralyn Castillo towed



Sun Palace to the double-figure win against QQ after scoring 14 points.

IT&E, on the other hand, spread the wealth to hand Armatech (2-4) a beating. Jan Travilla, Tawnie Manibusan, and Karleen Reyes all tallied twin digits, while four other IT&E players contributed at least 4 points apiece.

Armatech made only three field goals in the entire game



and had no player hitting more than one basket in the lopsided match.

Meanwhile, in the boys 25 division, the Ol'Aces 2 is likely to march into the semis round as it improved to a 4-1 record following a 63-40 victory over Rollers 1 (3-1) last Monday.

The Ol'Aces 2 took the solo lead in the division, which has six teams and only four will advance to the next round.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Fiesta Resort's Chevy Kate Alipio, seen here going for a breakaway layup against Shirley's Coffee Shop, scored 11 points in their 48-24 victory over QQ Rent A Car in the women's division game in the TanHoldings holiday caging last Monday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Jeff Castro paced the Ol'Aces 2 with his 15 points, while R.J. Paragados added 11.

In other results, MHS and Ol'Aces 1 downed their respective opponents in the boys U16 division.

The Ol'Aces 1 (3-4), which are out of the playoff race, capped its season with a 48-44 triumph over Gen Cup (2-5). The Ol'Aces finished fifth out of the eight teams in the division, just a win behind last semifinalist Rollers 1 (4-2).

MHS, on the other hand, joined the Ol'Aces 2 in second place as the former also ended the elimination round with a 5-2 mark after easing past the 670 Thunder, 46-32. The 670 Thunder is also out of contention, while its sister team 670 Sonics took the first semis seat after wrapping up the regular season with a clean 7-0 mark.

Royals announce \$12M, 2-year deal with Brandon Moss



KANSAS CITY, Mo.

(AP)—The most fun Brandon Moss has ever had playing baseball came in Kauffman Stadium.

He was playing for the Oakland Athletics in a wild-card game in September 2014, and everything was going along as if it was a dream. Moss had hit a pair of home runs, the A's had taken a big lead and all signs were pointing toward Oakland making a run at the World Series.

Then, the Royals scored three times in the eighth inning and again in the ninth to knot the game, and Kansas City went on to win the memorable playoff matchup 9-8 in 12 innings.

"Most fun and heartbreaking game I've ever been part of," Moss said.

It made sense those memories were still so fresh Wednesday, because Moss was back at Kauffman Stadium. But this time, he was

slipping into a Royals jersey after signing a \$12 million, two-year deal to provide the Kansas City lineup with a power bat at designated hitter and depth in the outfield.

Maybe the old cliché remains true: If you can't beat 'em, join 'em.

"I honestly felt going into that game, whoever won that game was going to the World Series," Moss recalled of that playoff game, "and the reason was they were two different teams. We had incredible starting pitching and power—power galore. And these guys had an unbelievable bullpen—the game was shorted to six innings—and speed all over the place. And speed won the game that night."

The Royals went on to reach the World Series, too, where they lost to San Francisco in an equally epic seven games. They proceeded to beat the New York Mets to win the championship in 2015.

MITA

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Mita's move from Jordan to Saipan was made possible through the Japan Football Association.

"NMIFA is extremely lucky to receive continuing support from Japan Football Association by deploying coach Mita to support our program. We all witnessed the impact that coach Seki created in the past three years for the development of soccer here and we are very thankful for that," Tan said.

"As one of the newest and fast growing sports in the CNMI, it is very important for NMIFA to have a highly qualified technical director like coach Mita to help us with the development of soccer, starting with grassroots level up

to our coaches," the NMIFA head added.

Strong work ethic

Mita is currently working with NMIFA staff/coaches in conducting training sessions for the U17 national pool and the youth players and his assistants lauded his worth ethic and strategies.

"He's very hard working and very committed to the players and the team as shown in the three weeks we've been with him. He is bringing a different type of play to our national team, encouraging us to be more physical and quick, instead of sitting back. We've been working on quick pressure plays and a lot of attacking in training recently and all the players have been learning a lot from him," said Sunjoon Tenorio.

Jersh Angeles, who is one of Mita's assistants (the other one is Jonathan Takano), said the new technical head is very meticulous.

"He is particular even to the smallest things. Every day we have a meeting with coach Mita to discuss the training plan and the duties for the day. I've been with him for only almost a month now and I have learned a lot from him. He helps and gives advice to my training plan. He is strict and straight forward to almost everything," Angeles said.

"He has a great vision for NMIFA through his plans and programs. He has almost the same strategies and concept as coach Seki. Coach Mita is easy to work with and he can be a good friend off the pitch," Angeles added.

BEN

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Marceau topped XTERRA Saipan from 2004 to 2007, while other winners of the off-road triathlon race includes the United Kingdom's Sam Gardner (2009 to 2011), Canada's Mike Vine (2002), Australia's Jason Chalker (2003), Andrew Noble (2008), and Brodie Gardner (2016).

Gardner will also be returning to the island to defend his crown in the March 18 event and his presence along with other XTERRA Saipan veterans Takahiro Ogasawara of Ja-

pan, Markus Benesch of Austria, Aleksandr Dorovskikh of Russia, Will Kelsay of the U.S., Joe Miller of the Philippines, and Bradley Weiss of South Africa, will make the competition interesting.

"I'm not one to get ahead of myself, having last year's winner and XTERRA champion Bradley Weiss whom I've had some epic and memorable battles with, for next month's race. I'll have my hands full," said Allen, who holds the course record in the 1.5-kilometer swim, 30K bike, and 12K trail run with his 2:31:05 posted in 2012.

Besides battling the most number of pros since he first joined the race six years ago, what makes this year's event even more challenging to the four-time champion is the reputation of XTERRA Saipan's course.

"It's up there as one of the toughest on the planet. The climb up to Mt Tapochau is brutal, but as a reward for my effort I always try and reward myself with a quick glimpse of the amazing view before knuckling back down and focusing on the job at hand," the Aussie triathlete said.

Once back on island, Al-

MARIANAS

From Page 40

the division-leading team exploded for 43 points in the penultimate frame to take an insurmountable 89-35 advantage.

Despite the huge lead, Mariana Resort showed no mercy to Mobil/COAG, logging 38 more points in the fourth quarter en route to the biggest winning margin so far in the league.

In their earlier win, Sakisat stood the tallest among his teammates after recording 32 points. He consistently made multiple baskets in all four quarters to help Mariana Resort snap TDI's two-game losing skid.

Mariana Resort gained cushion in the third canto behind Sakisat's 7 markers, as the team turned a 42-37 half-time lead to a 66-54 advantage, going into the fourth pe-

riod. Mariana Resort then kept its safe distance as it waxed hot from downtown, drilling four triples.

Raymond Velasco had a game-high 41 points in a losing effort for TDI, which played without Jerome Reyes. Allen Reyes chipped in 24 markers for TDI, which fell to an even 2-2 record.

Friday Game

Marianas Resort 89 – Sakisat 31, Fidelino 18, Factor 12, F. Lifofoi 8, Kani 5, Asedillo 4, Ermitanio 3, Prado 2, J. Lifofoi 2.

TDI 80 – Velasco 41, A. Reyes 24, Ibarra 4, Pollisco 4, Mafnas 4, N. Arreza 3.

Scoring by quarters: 14-16, 42-37, 66-54, 89-80.

Tuesday Game

Mariana Resort 127 – J. Lifofoi 32, Sakisat 26, F. Li-

www.webscorer.com/register?raceid=89344.

XTERRA Saipan is the first stop of the XTERRA Asia-Pacific Tour. The next is XTERRA La Union in the Philippines on March 26, followed by XTERRA Thailand (April 1), XTERRA New Zealand (April 8), XTERRA Cebu, Philippines (April 23), XTERRA Malaysia (April 29), XTERRA Tahiti (May 6), XTERRA Korea (Aug. 26), and XTERRA Japan (Sept. 3). Pros will earn points from each stop and at the end of the races, prize money will be awarded to winners.

foi 25, Factor 20, Ermitanio 10, Fidelino 7, Asedillo 4, Kapileo 2.

Mobil/COAG 48 – Torres 19, Almario 8, Manzano 6, Agustin 4, Sison 4, Pelisamen 3, Muna 2, Cisneros 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-9, 46-24, 89-35, 127-48.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	31	18	.633	—
Toronto	30	20	.600	1½
New York	22	29	.431	10
Philadelphia	18	30	.375	12½
Brooklyn	9	40	.184	22

Southeast Division

Washington	28	20	.583	—
Atlanta	28	21	.571	½
Charlotte	23	27	.460	6
Miami	20	30	.400	9
Orlando	19	32	.373	10½

Central Division

Cleveland	33	15	.688	—
Indiana	26	22	.542	7
Chicago	25	25	.500	9
Detroit	22	27	.449	11½
Milwaukee	21	27	.438	12

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

San Antonio	37	11	.771	—
Houston	36	16	.692	3
Memphis	30	21	.588	8½
Dallas	19	30	.388	18½
New Orleans	19	31	.380	19

Northwest Division

Utah	31	19	.620	—
Oklahoma City	28	22	.560	3
Portland	22	28	.440	9
Denver	21	27	.438	9
Minnesota	19	30	.388	11½

Pacific Division

Golden State	42	7	.857	—
L.A. Clippers	31	18	.633	11
Sacramento	19	30	.388	23
L.A. Lakers	17	34	.333	26
Phoenix	15	34	.306	27

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIBF Inaugural Men’s Outdoor League Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Saipan Apparel's Syl Teregeyo pulls up for a jumper against the Ol'Aces' Jesse Santos and in front of Nak Nakashima during Game 2 of their title duel in the Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's Inaugural Men's Outdoor League last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Saipan Apparel's Joshua Andrew, second left, reaches in to steal the ball from the Ol'Aces' Jack Lizama, left, in Game 2 of the finals.



Saipan Apparel's Joshua Andrew goes for a point-blank shot against the Ol'Aces' Jesse Santos, right, while the latter's teammate Nak Nakashima looks on.



Saipan Apparel's Derrick Rangamar slips past the defense of Dan Barcinas for a reverse layup.



The Ol'Aces' Jesse Santos, center, slices through the defense of Saipan Apparel's Kelvin Fitial, left, and Ed Diaz for a banked shot during Game 1 of the finals.



The Ol'Aces' Jesus Iguel, left, tries to keep the ball away from Saipan Apparel's Kelvin Fitial, second left.



The Ol'Aces' Andrew Palino drives baseline against Saipan Apparel's Ben Lisua.



The Ol'Aces Dan Barcinas, third left, is sandwiched by Saipan Apparel's Ed Diaz, second left, and Derrick Rangamar, right.

Curry's 3-point clinic leads Warriors past Hornets

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Saipan Tribune Sports



That was awkward: Goodell dodges on Raiders, parries on Pats

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Marianas Resort on top of Pool B

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Back-to-back wins in less than a week put Mariana Resort in the division lead in the JEM Company Ltd./Mobil Customer Appreciation Basketball League.

Mariana Resort defeated Top Development, Inc., 89-80, last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium and then hammered Mobil/COAG last Tuesday, 127-48, to remain unbeaten in three games and take the Pool B lead in the 16-team league.

Joe Lifofoi Jr. led Mariana Resort's crushing of the hapless Mobil/COAG after firing 31 points. He also drew ample support from three of his teammates with Melvin Sakisat Jr. chipping in 25 markers and Frank Lifofoi and Prince Factor contributing 25 and 20, respectively. E.J. Ermitanio was the fifth Mariana Resort player to break into twin digits in their 79-point win against Mobil/COAG after adding 10.

Mariana Resort peppered Mobil/COAG with triples and nearly matched the latter's total output just in the third quarter alone, as

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mariana Resort's Prince Factor gets away with a fastbreak layup during the fourth quarter of their game against Mobil/COAG in the JEM/Mobil caging last Tuesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Australian pro Ben Allen is covered with mud as he heads out of the bike course in last year's XTERRA World Championships in Hawaii.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Australian pro Ben Allen will return on island as he eyes an unprecedented fifth men's divisions crown in next month's 2016 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

"I am excited to be back on Saipan," said Allen in a message sent to *Saipan Tribune* last Wednesday.

Allen ruled the XTERRA Crown Jewel for four straight years (2012 to 2015) before missing last year's competition due to budgetary constraints.

"I think I'm tied with Olivier



Marceau for the most wins and I'd love to be able to claim that fifth title and surpass the legend. Five XTERRA Crown Jewel titles sounds nice," the third placer in last year's XTERRA World Championship said.

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Mita to continue raising coaching level in CNMI

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

With new technical director Michiteru Mita in town, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan believes the level of coaching in the CNMI will continue to improve.

"Other than helping improve our players' skill level, coach Mita will be instrumental in helping us raise the coaching level here by expanding our pool of qualified coaches not only at NMIFA, but with all the clubs. Our national players come from the clubs, so it is important that club coaching standard will also be raised," said Tan in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* last Tuesday.

Mita started on his new post early

last month, taking over the spot left by Kiyoshi Sekiguchi. He is now working on NMIFA's grassroots and national team programs and will



also develop plans for coaches.

"Working on players alone will not be enough to ensure the development of the program.

We also need to improve our

coaches' skills," the former Jordan Football Association technical head said in an earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
New NMIFA technical head Michiteru Mita, right, listens to his predecessor Kiyoshi Sekiguchi giving instructions during a coaching course held last December at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.